THE LATE HERBERT KELSALL SLATER.

SIR,—I am informed by Dr. W. F. Smeeth, the principal officer of the Geological Department of Mysore, that a fund is being formed to make some provision for the family of Mr. H. K. Slater of that department, who died recently from the bite of a large Russell's viper while engaged in Geological Survey work in the Shimoga District. An obituary, in which his services to geology are recorded, appeared in this Magazine in July last. He leaves three young children almost entirely unprovided for, and it is urgently necessary to raise a sum sufficient for their upbringing and education.

Contributions may be sent either to Dr. W. F. Smeeth, Bangalore, India, or to me at the address below.

JOHN W. EVANS.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE,
LONDON, S.W.

OBITUARY.

SIR GEORGE HOWARD DARWIN,
K.C.B., M.A., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.

BORN JULY 9, 1845. DIED DECEMBER 7, 1912.

IN his opening Address to the British Association the President, Sir Oliver Lodge, writes (Birmingham, September 10): "Through the untimely death of Sir George Darwin the world has lost a mathematical astronomer whose work on the tides and allied phenomena is a monument of power and achievement. So recently as August, 1905, on our visit to South Africa, he occupied the Presidential Chair." It was on his return to England after his visit to South Africa that he received the honour of Knight Commander of the Bath from His Majesty.

The second son of the late Charles R. Darwin (author of *The Origin of Species*, etc.), George Darwin was born at Down, Kent, in 1845, and was educated privately by the Rev. Charles Pritchard (later Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford). He entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1864, and graduated as a Second Wrangler and Smith's Prizeman in 1868, and in that year he was elected to a Fellowship at Trinity College, which he held 1868–78, and to which he was re-elected in 1884. At first he studied the law, and was called to the Bar in 1874, but returned to Cambridge, where he spent the rest of his life, devoting himself to Solar Mathematics. His *Collected Papers*, which form four volumes, were recently published by the Cambridge University Press. In 1884 he was chosen Plumian Professor of Astronomy in Cambridge.

Sir George Darwin's writings had a most important bearing on Dynamical Geology, especially "On the influence of Geological Changes on the Earth's Axis of Rotation" (Phil. Trans., 1877), "On the bodily Tides of viscous and semi-elastic Spheroids and on the Ocean Tides on a yielding Nucleus" (op. cit., 1879), "On the Precession of a viscous Spheroid and on the Remote History of the Earth" (op. cit., 1879), and "On the Secular Changes in the