

II.—ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

May 3, 1910.—Dr. A. Smith Woodward, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Dr. A. Smith Woodward, F.R.S., communicated a paper by Dr. R. Broom, D.Sc., C.M.Z.S., "On *Tritylodon*, and on the Relationships of the Multituberculata." The author had re-examined the type and only known specimen of *Tritylodon*, and in one or two points came to different conclusions from Owen and Seeley. The large flat piece of bone which forms the upper part of the snout, regarded by both Owen and Seeley as the frontal, was believed to be the upper part of the nasal. The supposed parietal was held to be the frontal. No distinct prefrontal could be made out; but there was believed to be a large distinct septomaxillary. The dental formula was believed to be  $i^3 m^7$ , instead of, as supposed by Owen,  $i^2 m^6$ .

Gidley's recent paper on *Ptilodus* was criticized at some length, and an endeavour made to controvert his conclusion that *Ptilodus* is allied to the Diprotodont Marsupials.

It was held that while the Multituberculates are doubtless very unlike the living degenerate Monotremes, they are more primitive than the Marsupials and not at all closely allied to them, and that till the evidence of their affinities is much greater than at present they may well be left as an independent order.

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OBITUARY.

THE REV. WILLIAM HENRY EGERTON, M.A., F.G.S.

BORN NOVEMBER 13, 1811.

DIED MARCH 17, 1910.

(PLATE XXII.)

IN the death of the Rev. W. H. Egerton the Geological Society has lost its oldest Fellow—one who had been elected on June 13, 1832, and had been a Fellow for nearly seventy-eight years, a record doubtless unique in the history of scientific societies. Probably the longest previous record of a Fellow of the Geological Society was that of Sir Richard John Griffith, elected a Member in 1808. He died in September, 1878, in his ninety-fifth year, after being connected with the Society for seventy years.

The fourth son of the Rev. Sir Philip Grey Egerton, ninth Baronet and Rector of Tarporley and Malpas in Cheshire, the Rev. W. H. Egerton was brother of the distinguished geologist Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton (1806–81). He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1835, and was afterwards elected a Fellow of his College.

Inspired by the teachings of Buckland, he early gave attention to geological subjects, and in 1833 a short communication by him "On the Delta of Kander" was read before the Geological Society and published in the Proceedings (vol. ii, p. 76). The River Kander, after a course parallel to the Lake of Thun, had formerly flowed into the Aar, but owing to inundations its waters were diverted about the year 1731 into the lake. The author described the delta

since formed as extending about a mile along the shore of the lake and a quarter of a mile distant from it.

In 1835 Mr. Egerton entered the Church, and was Curate at Stoke-upon-Trent 1836–9, Rector of Malpas 1840–5, Vicar of Ellesmere 1845–6, and finally Rector of Whitchurch in Shropshire for sixty-two years, having retired only two years ago. Until the end he held a Prebendal Stall in Lichfield Cathedral.

Murchison, in his *Silurian System* (1839, p. 23), acknowledges assistance from the Rev. W. H. Egerton in determining the boundary of the Lias on the borders of Cheshire and Shropshire. In 1844 Professor Edward Forbes read before the Geological Society a "Report on the Collection of Fossils from Southern India", presented by C. J. Kaye and the Rev. W. H. Egerton, who had personally obtained an extensive series of specimens from Pondicherry, Verdachellum, and Trichinopoli (Proc. Geol. Soc., iv, p. 325).

While preserving a collection of fossils and retaining interest in local geology, the Rev. W. H. Egerton had devoted his energies to clerical and educational work. "As Church dignitary, scholar, and educationist he was a Rector of whom to be proud, and Whitchurch was fortunate indeed to have had the benefit of his spiritual guidance and goodly counsel for so many decades. Between him and his parishioners there always existed a mutual esteem, and the bond grew stronger with the passing years."<sup>1</sup>

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#### MISCELLANEOUS.

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SEDGWICK PRIZE ESSAY.—The subject for the essay for the year 1913 is "On the Unconformities in the Mesozoic Strata of the Neighbourhood of Cambridge and their Significance". The essays are to be sent in to the Registry on or before October 1, 1912. The prize is open to all graduates of the University who shall have resided sixty days during the twelve months preceding the day on or before which the essays must be sent in.—*Morning Post*, April 1, 1910.

THE MINERAL WATERS OF ESSEX.—A full and interesting "History of the Mineral Waters and Medicinal Springs of Essex" has been contributed by Mr. Miller Christy and Miss May Thresh to the *Essex Naturalist* (vol. xv, pts. vii and viii, issued 1910). The subject is of more geological than medical importance, as the authors state, "Speaking generally, we may say that, with few exceptions, the reputed Essex Mineral Waters which we have analysed for the purpose of this investigation cannot be regarded as Mineral Waters at all. The few which may be rightly so classed owe such small medicinal properties as they possess almost entirely to the presence in them of magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts)."

<sup>1</sup> From the *Chester Courant*, March 23, 1910.