

ON THE ERRATIC BLOCKS OF THE SKIDDAW DISTRICT.

SIR,—Having been away from home, I have only just seen Mr. Mackintosh's paper in the October number of your Magazine. I have not time now to enter into details about it, from which also I should be precluded by my position in the Survey. I think too that the interesting papers by my colleagues, Mr. De Rance and Mr. Ward, have pretty well exhausted the subject; and a very important paper, referring chiefly to the Glacial action round Bowfell, was read the other day before the Manchester Philosophical Society, by Mr. Brooklebank.

I would, however, ask Mr. Mackintosh how he accounts for the fact that in the drift in Dunmail Raise no traces of Skiddaw Rocks, either Slate or Granite, are to be seen. Mr. Mackintosh finds marine drift in Kirkston Pass, at a level of at least 1,300 feet above the sea. Dunmail Raise is less than 800 feet, and a current passing through it from North to South would, if bearing icebergs, bring fragments of the rocks of Skiddaw, which may be seen from the Pass any clear day.

I believe I am right in stating that all the boulders of Skiddaw Granite that have been found are in a line passing through Bassingthwaite and Troutbeck.

GEO. HYDE WOLLASTON.

H.M. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, GRASMERE, Nov. 22, 1870.

 MISCELLANEOUS.

AWARD OF GOLD MEDAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY TO THOS. DAVIDSON, Esq., F.R.S., F.G.S., V.P. PAL. SOC. LOND.—We are sure it will gratify our geological friends to learn that Mr. Davidson has been awarded one of the Royal Medals of the Royal Society, in recognition of his valuable contributions to Palæontology. It is not our intention to enter into an account of Mr. Davidson's labours on the Brachiopoda here, as we hope to do so more fully in our volume for next year. We may, however, mention that he has already published 2,090 pages of text, and 336 plates, the latter drawn with his own hand. The greater part of Mr. Davidson's labours have been published by the Palæontographical Society, of which he is the Vice-President: many of his plates will also be found adorning this Magazine.

THE COAL-FIELDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—Mr. William Keene, Examiner of the Coal-fields, in his official report for the year 1869, states that the quality of the New South Wales coal is year by year better appreciated. In Madras it meets English coal at equal prices, and it is greatly esteemed for gas manufacture. New works are in progress in various directions. He has examined seams more than 700 miles to the north of Newcastle, belonging to the same deposits, worked near this town in New South Wales; and he remarks that the whole coal-field may claim to rank with the most extensive in