

of altering the specific names of fossils derived from place-names so as to accord with the present rendering upon the Ordnance Survey Maps. The well-known Rhætic fossil *Pleuromya crowcombeia* (Moore) is given as *Pleuromya crocombeia*—the *w* is omitted—in the Geological Survey Memoir on “The Geology of the Country between Wellington and Chard” (1906, p. 27).

L. RICHARDSON.

CHELTEMHAM.

14th December, 1907.

NORTH DEVON ATHENÆUM: GIFT OF THE PARTRIDGE  
COLLECTION.

SIR,—This institution has recently received a most valuable gift, the large collection (Partridge Collection) of Devonian and Culm fossils made by Mrs. Coomaraswamy in North and South Devon, and by Dr. Coomaraswamy on the Continent. Included in the Partridge Collection are fourteen specimens figured in the Rev. G. F. Whidborne’s Monograph of Devonian Fauna (Palæontographical Society) and the *Geological Magazine*, five of them type-specimens. This, added to T. M. Hall’s already there, makes the North Devon Athenæum Collection one of the most complete of its kind in the kingdom. The specimens being too numerous to be all displayed, Dr. Coomaraswamy has made a selection, for the exhibition of which special cases have been provided; the remainder have been placed in drawers, and, like all the specimens in this Museum, are available for purposes of study.

Devonshire, even prior to this most liberal gift, was rich in local geological collections. It may now be said without exaggeration that the Museums at Exeter, Plymouth, Torquay, and Barnstaple, between them contain practically a complete collection of the fossils and rocks (so far recorded) of the county.

J. G. HAMLING.

THE CLOSE, BARNSTAPLE.

OBITUARY.

THE RT. HON. WILLIAM THOMSON, BARON KELVIN,  
P.C., O.M., G.C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L.,  
PAST PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, ETC.

BORN JUNE 26, 1824.

DIED DECEMBER 17, 1907.

In the death of Lord Kelvin geologists have lost one who took keen interest in the physical and astronomical aspects of their science, and aided perhaps more than any other philosopher in this country to place the subject of Cosmogony on a scientific basis. He dealt with the evolution of the heavenly bodies, with changes in the position of the earth’s axis of rotation, with the probable condition of the earth’s interior, and with the thermal conductivity of rocks. In one respect his views regarding the earth found little support. His calculations on the increase of temperature beneath the surface and the rate of loss of heat from the earth led him in 1862 to argue that the age of the