

I have been making a special study of Floridian Geology for some years, and hope to publish a considerable amount of new information on that subject during the coming summer.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM, Wm. H. DALL.
WASHINGTON, April 15, 1891.

THE GEOLOGY OF THE SALT RANGE OF THE PANJAB.

SIR,—In the latest number (part i. vol. xxiv.) of the Records of the Geological Survey of India there is an interesting paper by Mr. C. S. Middlemiss on the Geology of the Salt Range of the Panjab. Admirable sections are given illustrating two points until recently in dispute, the positions of the Conularia Bed and of the Obolus Shales; and a very bold beginning is made of a fresh discussion, regarding the age and mode of origin of the Salt Marl and its minerals, advocating peculiar eruptive conditions connected with a primitive and hitherto undisturbed subterranean magma. Until Mr. Middlemiss develops his position, it would be premature to comment thereon; I will only ask leave to correct two personal errors in the paper. On p. 25 a quotation is made from my paper on the geology of the Panjab, published in the Provincial Gazetteer, whereby I am made to appear as executing an erroneous reversal of opinion upon a disputed unconformity in the Salt Range. Mr. Middlemiss must have overlooked the note at the beginning of the section on the Salt Range, stating that “this sketch is by Mr. Wynne.” I did not alter a word of it. So the passage in question is a repetition by Mr. Wynne of a view against which I had remonstrated in vain. The other point is on p. 20, where I am represented as “not entirely agreeing” with the erroneous view of the Conularia horizon. It refers to a short paper in which I had endeavoured to soften a somewhat acrimonious dispute by an impartial summary of the evidence; but there can be no doubt as to which side my own opinion leaned. I even suggested the conclusion which Mr. Middlemiss now presents as established: regarding the “pebbles” with Conularia I asked—“Is it not more plausible to suppose that they were washed into the gravel bed from some contemporaneous (Palæozoic) pool deposit close by?” (Records, vol. xix. p. 133).

CLIFTON, 29th April, 1891.

H. B. MEDLICOTT.

OBITUARY.

WE regret to record the death of Professor Joseph Leidy, the distinguished American physiologist and palæontologist. The deceased, who was in his sixty-eighth year, was Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, and of Natural History in Swarthmore College. He was also President of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Director of the Department of Biology in the University, and a Foreign Member of the Geological Society of London. His more important contributions to scientific literature were, “The Extinct Mammalian Fauna of Dakota and Nebraska,” and “Freshwater Rhizopods of North America.” He also wrote an elementary treatise on human anatomy.—*Standard*, Friday, 1st May, 1891.