

has been founding his remark on the *old map*, in the first or second edition of that work, showing only the earlier glaciation on land, and not at all the subsequent ice-movement along the coast? In any case, as Prof. Hull seems to throw doubt on one's accuracy in the matter, it becomes necessary to point out that the mistake is entirely his own, as doubtless he will readily acknowledge.

THE AGE OF THE RHYOLITES OF COUNTY ANTRIM.

SIR, — The "Proceedings of the Geologists' Association" for August, 1895 (vol. xiv, p. 152), contain a communication made by myself to Mr. R. Lloyd Praeger respecting the probable contemporaneity of the rhyolites of county Antrim and the granite of the Mourne Mountains. This statement was based on notes made by me early in the year, and I had learned, from conversation with Mr. W. W. Watts, that similar views were current among the members of the staff of the Geological Survey of Ireland. Hence the form in which Mr. Praeger utilized the information sent to him.

I wrote, however, in June, before I had received my copy of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for that month, and hence Mr. McHenry's clear statement of his belief,¹ though by that time published, was not directly referred to. As soon as I read his paper, I forwarded an account of it, and a withdrawal of any reference to myself, to Mr. Praeger, who revised the amended sentences on his proofs; but the correction appears to have been overlooked in the press of business connected with a summer excursion of the Association. I make this explanation, since the passage, as published in August, is distinctly unfair to Mr. McHenry's paper, which has thrown such light upon the question.

GRENVILLE A. J. COLE.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE FOR IRELAND,
DUBLIN; October 13th, 1895.

OBITUARY.

ROBERT FITCH, F.S.A., F.G.S.

BORN OCTOBER 21ST, 1802.

DIED APRIL 4TH, 1895.

GEOLOGY, like other branches of Natural History, has owed much of its progress to the zeal of collectors. Of these, one of the most painstaking and successful was the late Robert Fitch, who, in addition to a most valuable collection of antiquities, had gathered together a very fine series of fossils from the Crag and Chalk of Norfolk. He was born at Ipswich, on October 21st, 1802, educated at the Grammar School, and apprenticed to a chemist and druggist in the town. Pursuing this occupation he settled in Norwich, in 1827, in partnership with Mr. Sheriff Chambers, and continued until he was over 90 years of age to take an active interest in business. From an early date he took great interest in fossils, and his specimens were always at the service of those engaged in palæontological studies.

He seldom wrote on geological subjects, his chief literary contributions being to the "Transactions of the Norfolk Archæological Society." In 1836, however, he communicated to the Geological Society an account of the discovery of the tooth of a Mastodon in

¹ "On the Age of the Trachytic Rocks of Antrim," GEOL. MAG. 1895, p. 264.

the Crag at Thorpe, near Norwich; and in 1840 he sent to the "Magazine of Natural History" a "Notice of the existence of a distinct Tube within the hollows of the Paramoudra." In later years he announced before the Norwich Geological Society, the finding of Deer's antlers in the re-deposited Chalk at Hartford Bridges, near Norwich; and also the discovery of Flint Implements in the valley of the Little Ouse. His fine collection is placed in a special room in the new Museum-buildings at Norwich Castle. He died on April 4th, 1895, in the 93rd year of his age.

JOHN ELLOR TAYLOR, PH.D., F.L.S., ETC.

BORN SEPTEMBER 21ST, 1835.

DIED SEPTEMBER 28TH, 1895.

As an enthusiastic lover of Nature, and a popular exponent of Geological and Botanical Science, Dr. Taylor did much to arouse in others an interest in Natural History subjects. The son of the foreman of a cotton factory, he was born at Levenshulme, Manchester, and was employed in early years in the railway-works at Crewe. Developing a taste for literature and science, he read largely, cultivated a facile style of writing, and became a contributor to a Manchester paper. His leisure hours were devoted to Geology, and in his first work, "Geological Essays" (1864), he gave a sketch of the geology of Manchester and its neighbourhood. About the year 1862 he settled in Norwich, as a sub-editor of the *Norwich Mercury*, and stirred up much interest in the geology of the country round the old city. He drew attention to the disturbed Chalk at Whitlingham, Swainsthorpe, and other places; he pointed out the differences in the Mollusca preserved in the two shell-beds in the Norwich Crag at Bramerton; and, in conjunction with the late John Gunn, he established the Norwich Geological Society, which is now incorporated with the Norfolk Naturalists' Society. Before these local Societies, and before the British Association, the results of his geological observations were brought; and records of his work are printed in the earlier volumes of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE. In 1866 he published a little introduction to Geology, entitled "Lithographs," and subsequently other popular works on Natural History flowed from his pen. In 1872 he was appointed Curator to the Ipswich Museum, a post from which he retired through ill-health about two years ago. He contributed a capital "Sketch of the Geology of Suffolk" to White's History of the County; and for many years he was Editor of *Science Gossip*. His Science Lectures at Ipswich and elsewhere were widely appreciated, and of late years he was a strong advocate of the search for Coal in East Anglia.

Dr. J. E. Taylor was present in the Geological Section of the British Association at Ipswich in September last, and spoke on the subject of the deep-boring in search of coal at Stutton; and definitely stated his opinion, that though unfavourable to the anticipations and hopes of himself and others, he believed that the boring had brought up a sample of the Yoredale Shales below the real Coal-measures.

ERRATUM.—On p. 472, October Number GEOL. MAG., line 17 from top of page, for *Geniformes* read *Gruiformes*.—EDIT. GEOL. MAG.