

JOSEPH BICKERTON MORGAN, F.G.S.

BORN 1859. DIED MARCH 8TH, 1894.

ON the 8th of March there passed away at Ventnor a life full of promise for work among the Ordovician and Silurian rocks. Born in 1859, Mr. Morgan was always an earnest student of nature, and one of his earliest tasks, when associated with the late Morris Charles Jones as Assistant Honorary Curator of the Powysland Museum at Welshpool, was to classify and arrange the large collection of recent shells given to the Museum by the Rev. J. Vize. He next turned his attention to the fossils in the Museum, rearranged them, and then added very largely to them from his own extensive collections, especially from the Silurian and Ordovician rocks in the immediate neighbourhood.

In 1885 a paper, published by Mr. Vine in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, contained a description of a new species of *Phyllopora*, *P. tumida*, from the Caradoc rocks of Llanfyllin, and of *Thamniscus antiquus*, from the Bala volcanic ash of Middletown Hill, both collected by Mr. Morgan. Previously to this Mr. Morgan had been studying the Upper Ordovician and Silurian rocks of Powysland and the Welsh border, and had obtained a large series of fossils from beds above and below the boundary line of these formations, which he submitted to Professor Lapworth for identification. By the advice of the latter he began to map these strata, and succeeded in defining the lower limit of the Silurians with much greater exactitude than had been hitherto done, with the result of adding several hundreds of feet of rock to the Silurian system. A forecast of his conclusions on the subject was published as a paper to the British Association at Leeds in 1890, but the full paper has not yet been published. It is to be hoped that sufficient material may be found amongst his papers to allow of its publication in full.

In 1892 Mr. Morgan resolved to devote himself to scientific work, and, obtaining a free scholarship at the Royal College of Science, he came to London, and in a single year succeeded so well as to obtain the first prize at the College, together with the Murchison medal and gift of instruments and books. It was on the last day of his duties as demonstrator during the summer vacation that he took a chill, from which serious trouble ensued, compelling him to abandon work and winter at Ventnor. Here he seemed to rally, and just as his friends were beginning to hope that he might soon be well enough to resume his work, he succumbed to an attack of hæmorrhage, in the 35th year of his age. In addition to the work mentioned above, some new species of *Entomostraca* were discovered by him, while he contributed several papers, including one on Shorthorn Cattle, and one "on the Strata forming the base of the Silurian in north-east Montgomeryshire," to the Montgomery Collections, and delivered lectures at the Welshpool School of Art.

Thus a country geologically almost unknown has lost an earnest, reliable, and enthusiastic worker, one who could very ill be spared; while many of us have to mourn a kind and true-hearted friend.