

Sub-Wealden boring, which I gave to Professor Phillips at Bradford, and which enabled him to report in *Nature* of Oct. 9th, that the boring was in Kimmeridge Clay.¹ This shell is characteristic of that formation at Shotover Hill, near Oxford, and at Ely, near Cambridge, and Mr. Davidson tells me that the Boulogne specimen is the same size as those from the above-named places, viz. about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length, and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in breadth, but the "sub-Wealden" *Lingula* is remarkable for being only about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in length.

I have since found two or three other specimens, and they are all of the same diminutive size: it may possibly be that they are young ones.

I hope soon to hear of some more good specimens turning up both from the boring and the Boulogne Cliffs.

ST. LEONARDS, Nov. 3, 1873.

JOHN E. H. PEYTON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have found the following additional fossils from the Sub-Wealden boring; depth about 300 feet:—a *Patella latissima*, an *Ostræa*, a *Pecten*, and a *Modiola*. They were shown to some of the Committee in Jermyn Street, and pronounced to be Kimmeridge Clay fossils; thus confirming Prof. Phillips's announcement in *Nature*, alluded to above.

Nov. 21.

J. E. H. P.

OBITUARY.

ALBANY HANCOCK.—Zoologists have seldom had to mourn a greater loss than that which they have sustained by the death of Albany Hancock; and, as is so often the case when a scientific man of the first rank leaves this life, one subdivision of the sciences is not alone affected by it. Palæontology has also lost in Mr. Hancock an earnest and clear-sighted worker, and may be said to have reaped almost the last fruits of his labours. It is as a palæontologist that he must be commemorated here, and a glance at the accompanying list of his papers on ancient forms will show that the range of his knowledge as such gave him an indisputable right to the title.

Mr. Hancock was born in Newcastle in 1806, and died there on the 24th of last October. His life was, in the ordinary sense of the term, singularly uneventful. Scarcely ever did he leave his birth-place, which, with the dales and fells in its neighbourhood, he loved as north countrymen can, *never* did he forsake his pure naturalist's work. Each year of his manhood was marked by the discovery, accurate observation, and ever modest publication of new and important facts in Biology. His work speaks for itself; but the spirit in which he worked, his intense love of Nature for her own sake, his unaffected shrinking from honours which were forced upon him, his readiness to impart his knowledge or to give all help to the humblest beginner who was willing to work, his contempt of the so-called *popular* science of blatant sciolists, his life-long friendships,—all these must not pass away unrecorded. They cannot pass away unremembered by any one who knew him.

By Albany Hancock's death the small but strong circle of natur-

¹ See also letter from Prof. Phillips in *GEOL. MAG.* for November, p. 527.

alists with whose names the early and brilliant days of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club will always be associated is once more thinned indeed.

List of papers bearing on Palæontology and Geology by Albany Hancock :—

1. On the boring of the Mollusca into rocks, etc., and on the removal of portions of their shells.—Ann. Nat. Hist. ii., 1848, p. 225 (reprinted elsewhere).
2. Notice of the occurrence of Fossil Fish in the rocks (Marl-slate) near the great slip-dyke at Cullercoats Haven.—Tyneside Nat. F. C. Trans. i., 1848, p. 275.
3. On the excavating powers of certain Sponges belonging to the genus *Cliona*, with descriptions of several new species, etc.—Ann. Nat. Hist. iii., 1849, p. 321.
4. Remarks on certain vermiform Fossils found in the Mountain Limestone districts of the North of England.—Tyneside Nat. F. C. Trans. iv., 1858, p. 17.
5. On a peculiar reticulated appearance on the surface of a Clay Beach at Whitburn.—Tyneside Nat. F. C. Trans. iv., 1858–59, p. 69.
6. Notes on the excavating Sponges, with descriptions of new species.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. i., 1865–67, p. 337.

Papers by Albany Hancock and Thomas Atthey :—

7. Notes on the various species of *Ctenodus* from the Shales of the Northumberland Coal-field.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iii., p. 54.
8. On remains of Reptiles and Fishes from the Shales of the Northumberland Coal-field.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iii., p. 66.
9. On a new Labyrinthodont Amphibian from the Northumberland Coal-field, and on the occurrence in the same locality of *Anthracosaurus Russellii*.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iii., p. 310.
10. Note on *Anthracosaurus*.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iii., p. 319.
11. On Fossil Fungi from the Black Shale of the Northumberland Coal-field.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iii., p. 321.
12. On the generic identity of *Climaxodus* and *Fanassa*.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iii., p. 330.
13. On an undescribed Fossil Fish from the Newsham Coal Shale.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iv., p. 199.
14. On the occurrence of *Loxomma Allmanni* in the Northumberland Coal-field.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iv., p. 201.
15. Description of a Labyrinthodont Amphibian, a new generic form from the Coal Shale of Newsham.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iv., p. 208.
16. Description of a mandibular Ramus of *Anthracosaurus Russellii*, with Notes on *Loxomma* and *Archichthys*.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iv., p. 385.
17. Remarks on *Dipterus* and *Ctenodus*, and on their relationship to *Ceratodus Forsteri*, Krefft.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iv., p. 397.
18. Descriptive Notes on *Pleurodus Rankinii*, on two new Species of *Platysomus* and a new *Amphicentrum*, with Remarks on a few other Fish-remains found in the Coal-measures at Newsham.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iv., p. 408.

Papers by Albany Hancock and Richard Howse :—

19. On a new Labyrinthodont Amphibian from the Magnesian Limestone of Midderidge, Durham.—Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., vol. 26, 1870, p. 556.
20. On *Dorypterus Hoffmanni*, Germar, from the Marl-slate of Midderidge, Durham.—Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., vol. 26, p. 565.
21. On *Fanassa bituminosa*, Schlot., from the Marl-slate of Midderidge, Durham.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iii., p. 339.
22. On *Proterosaurus Speneri*, v. Meyer, and a new species, *Proterosaurus Huxleyi*, from the Marl-slate of Midderidge, Durham.—Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumberland and Durham Trans. iv., p. 232.

G. A. L.