

OBITUARY.

FREDERICK ERASMUS EDWARDS, F.G.S.,

BORN OCTOBER 1, 1799, DIED OCTOBER 15, 1875.

Some five-and-thirty years ago, a little society was founded by a few London geologists, namely, Dr. J. S. Bowerbank, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., Searles V. Wood, F.G.S., John Morris, F.G.S., Alfred White, F.L.S., Nathaniel T. Wetherell, F.G.S., James de Carle Sowerby, F.L.S., F.Z.S., and Frederick E. Edwards, F.G.S., for the purpose of illustrating the Eocene Mollusca, and entitled "The LONDON CLAY CLUB."

Who would have supposed that this society, so small and unpretentious in its outset, should have given birth to one of the most useful and valued scientific societies in London? the PALÆONTOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, which has now existed for twenty-nine years, and numbers more than 350 members! A society which has produced 28 huge annual quarto volumes, containing 7840 pages of letterpress, and illustrated by 21,773 figures of 4273 species: not confined, like the original enterprise, to the illustration of the London Clay Mollusca, but aiming eventually to accomplish the task of illustrating all the fossil remains found in the British rocks!

Of the seven geologists who founded the old "London Clay Club," five still survive, namely:

Dr. J. S. Bowerbank, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., Pres. Pal. Soc.; Searles V. Wood, F.G.S., Treas. Pal. Soc.; Prof. Morris, F.G.S.; Alfred White, F.L.S.; Nathaniel T. Wetherell, F.G.S.

James de Carle Sowerby died in 1871,<sup>1</sup> and we have now the sad task to record the loss of another of these early workers in palæontology, that of FREDERICK E. EDWARDS, the historian of the Eocene Tertiary Mollusca.

Brought up to the profession of the law, and filling the responsible post for more than forty years of chief clerk to Masters Wingfield and Blunt, and to Vice-Chancellors Kindersley and Malins, he devoted his entire leisure time to the collection and study of the Mollusca of the Eocene Tertiaries of England.

1. His earliest contribution appeared in the "London Geological Magazine," for September, 1846, edited by E. Charlesworth, F.G.S., "On the Eocene *Tellina*," and at a later date, at intervals, in the monographs of the PALÆONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY appeared:

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| 2. In 1848, | "The Eocene Mollusca," | Part I. CEPHALOPODA (with nine plates).                                  |
| 3. In 1854, | " " "                  | Part II. PULMONATA (with six plates).                                    |
| 4. In 1854, | " " "                  | Part III. No. 1, PROSOBRANCHIATA<br>(with eight plates).                 |
| 5. In 1855, | " " "                  | Part III. No. 2, PROSOBRANCHIATA<br><i>continued</i> (with four plates). |
| 6. In 1858, | " " "                  | Part III. No. 3, PROSOBRANCHIATA<br><i>continued</i> (with six plates).  |

<sup>1</sup> See Obituary Notice of Mr. Sowerby, GEOL. MAG. 1871, Vol. VIII. p. 478.

7. "Notice of the Fossil Remains of a New Freshwater Mollusc from the Lower London Tertiaries," in the "Geologist," 1860, vol. iii. p. 208, pl. v.
8. "Descriptions of Some New Eocene Species of *Cypræa* and *Marginella*," in the Geol. MAG. 1865, Vol. II. p. 536, Pl. XIV.

It is an unfeigned source of regret to all workers in Eocene geology that after this date, owing to his failing health, Mr. Edwards ceased to publish the results of his long and careful examination of his great collection, the formation of which occupied the greater part of his lifetime.

His friend Searles V. Wood, F.G.S. (Treasurer of the Palæontographical Society), well known for his valuable monographs on the Mollusca of the Crag, took up the "Eocene Bivalves" in 1859, in 1862, and again in 1870, publishing three parts, illustrated by 25 plates; but much yet remains to be done in order to complete the entire series.

Fortunately for science, Mr. Frederick Edwards's magnificent collection, contained in five large cabinets, has been acquired by the Trustees of the British Museum, and now forms a part of the National Collection; as also does a part of the fine series of Eocene Mollusca obtained by N. T. Wetherell, Esq., F.G.S., from the neighbourhood of Highgate.

In future, students of Eocene Fossil shells may avail themselves of the advantages which these valuable collections afford them for purposes of scientific work.

Though often harassed by family cares and anxieties, and oppressed with the responsibilities of his official work as a solicitor, daily occupied in hearing and adjudicating upon difficult cases in Chancery, in private life Mr. Edwards was nevertheless greatly beloved by those who knew him intimately, and, when his health permitted, he delighted to gather his geological brethren around his table, and revive in his later years those pleasant social and quasi-scientific reunions which formed the bond of cohesion among the members of the old "London Clay Club."

J. M. AND H. W.

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

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**OOLITIC BRACHIOPODA.**—Mr. J. F. Walker, M.A., F.G.S., exhibited at the last meeting of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Club, the following species of Brachiopoda which occur on the Continent, but are scarcely known as British species, viz. *Terebratula bisuffarcinata*, Schlot., and *Rhyn. Thurmanni*, Voltz., from the Lower Calcareous Grit of Filey, Yorkshire Coast; *Waldheimia umbonella*, Lamarck, from the Kelloway Rock of Scarborough; *Terebratula Eudesii*, Oppel, and *Terebratula ventricosa*, Yieten, from the Inferior Oolite of Cheltenham; and *Terebratula Ferryi*, Des., from the Inferior Oolite of Dorsetshire.

**INDIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.**—We regret to learn that Dr. Wm. Waagen, of the Geological Survey of India, has been obliged by ill health to resign the appointment of Palæontologist, his promotion to which we lately noticed.