

Lenox College, and afterwards principal of a ward school at Dubuque. In 1874 he was elected to a professorship of natural science in the University of Iowa. Here, at first, he had charge of botany, zoology, geology, and physiology. Later he was made professor of geology, a position which he filled with distinction until his death. He received from Cornell College the degrees of M.A. and LL.D., and from Lenox College the degree of Ph.D.

In 1892 Dr. Calvin was elected State Geologist of Iowa. This position he resigned in 1904 owing to the stress of other duties. However, in 1906, upon the resignation of Professor Wilder, he was again elected State Geologist, and continued to serve until his death. The Iowa Geological Survey under his directorship published about twenty volumes of reports dealing with the geology and mineral resources of the State. Of great scientific value have been his own contributions to the geology of Iowa, especially those papers which have added to our knowledge of the Pleistocene. His most recent scientific publications, which deal with the Aftonian mammalian fauna, have done much to unravel some of the difficult problems of Pleistocene palæontology. In all his scientific work he was thorough, no details were considered trivial; his one desire was to discover truth—to find any facts which could make knowledge clearer, broader, more definite. That he had the power to clothe his thoughts in beautiful language is clearly shown in all his writings.<sup>1</sup>

GEORGE F. KAY.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

### JOHN ROBERT MORTIMER.

BORN 1825.

DIED 1911.

By the death of John Robert Mortimer the geologists of East Yorkshire lose one of the few remaining members of their 'old guard'. Though the chief scientific work of his life was done in the domain of archæology, culminating five years ago in the publication of his great work entitled *Forty Years Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire*, Mr. Mortimer likewise rendered notable service to geology by his writings and, above all, by bringing together the unrivalled collection of fossils from the Chalk of the Yorkshire Wolds, now housed in the private museum that he built at Driffield.

Mortimer was born in the Wold village of Fimber, and dwelt there until manhood, when he shifted his residence to Driffield, a few miles distant, where the rest of his life was spent, and where he died, on August 19 last, at the ripe age of 86 years. When a child he was of delicate health; indeed, throughout life his health was never robust, but he was endowed with a tough vitality, mental energy, and an indomitable spirit which carried him through many troubles and remained with him up to the last. So lately as the present year he sent a paper to be read at the British Association meeting at Portsmouth, on "The Stature, etc., of our Ancestors in East Yorkshire". His business of corn merchant and maltster brought him in contact with

<sup>1</sup> Abridged from *Science*, N.S., xxxiv, p. 107. We are indebted to Mr. G. P. Merrill for a copy of this memoir.

all the people of the countryside, so that when anything rare or curious was unearthed he soon had news of it. By this means and by his long-continued excavations of the barrows and other prehistoric burial-places, he was enabled to accumulate a store of archaeological material which is of peculiar value as a strictly localized record of the early races that inhabited the district.

During the years of his middle life Mortimer regularly attended the meetings of the British Association. He contributed papers on the Yorkshire Chalk to the Geological Society in 1869, 1875, and 1876, and to the Geologists' Association in 1877 and 1890. He also published several geological papers in the Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological (and Polytechnic) Society. A complete bibliography of his writings is contained in an illustrated sketch of his life by Mr. T. Sheppard, F.G.S., which appeared in the *Naturalist* for last May (No. 652).

His wife, a daughter of the Rev. T. Mitchell, vicar of Sancton and Holme-on-the-Wolds, died six years ago. They had a family of six children, five of whom survive them.

Mr. Mortimer was a man of impressive personality—tall, lithe, active in all his movements, and until a few months before his death almost untouched by age. His kindness and his energy endeared him to all his numerous friends, and he has left a lasting memory in the district for which he had such a loyal affection.

G. W. L.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.—At the recent celebration of the five hundredth anniversary of the University of St. Andrews, the following geologists were admitted to the honorary degree of LL.D.: Dr. John Horne, Professor A. G. Nathorst, Dr. J. J. H. Teall, Professor W. W. Watts, and Dr. A. Smith Woodward.

ERRATUM.—September Number, p. 400: Fig. 2 is printed upside down, reversing the relative positions of the saddles and lobes of the suture.

THE SWINEY LECTURES ON GEOLOGY.—In connexion with the British Museum (Natural History), Dr. T. J. Jehu, M.A., F.R.S.E., will commence a course of twelve *free* lectures on "The Natural History of Rocks" on Saturday, November 4, 1911: (1) Introductory; (2) Monday, November 6, "Eruptive Igneous Rocks"; (3) Tuesday, November 7, "Intrusive Igneous Rocks"; (4) Saturday, November 11, "Composition, Texture, and Structure of Igneous Rocks"; (5) Monday, November 13, "Derivative Rocks"; (6) Tuesday, November 14, "Organically-derived Rocks"; (7) Saturday, November 18, "Structure of Derivative Rocks"; (8) Monday, November 20, "Metamorphism"; (9) Tuesday, November 21, "The Metamorphic Rocks"; (10) Saturday, November 25, "Carbonaceous Rocks"; (11) Monday, November 27, "Chemically-formed Rocks"; (12) Tuesday, November 28, "Deposits formed on Land." At the Lecture Theatre of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington. Mondays and Tuesdays at 5 p.m., and Saturdays at 3 p.m.