

THE ZONES OF THE CHALK.

SIR,—In June last you kindly inserted a notice on the discovery of *Umtacrinus* Chalk in the neighbourhood of Orpington, Kent. Following up my researches, I am pleased to say I have been successful in tracing this zone and the succeeding one of *Marsupites* in Holwood Park, Keston, the residence of Lord Derby; and a few weeks ago, in an overgrown pit at Fox Lane, Keston, I discovered the junction bed of the *Micraster cor-anguinum* and *Umtacrinus* Chalk.

I hope ere long to give the results of further work in this area and the fauna obtained therefrom.

G. E. DIBLEY.

SYDENHAM, S.E.

November 18th, 1907.

 OBITUARY.

SIR JAMES HECTOR, K.C.M.G., M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S.

BORN 1834.

DIED NOVEMBER, 1907.

WE regret to record the death of Sir James Hector, late Director of the Geological Survey of New Zealand and Chancellor of the University of New Zealand. Born in Edinburgh in 1834, he was educated at the University in that city, and took the degree of M.D. in 1856. In the following year he was chosen, through the influence of Sir Roderick Murchison, as surgeon, geologist, and naturalist to accompany Captain John Palliser's exploring expedition to the central parts of British North America. He then made important ethnological and geographical observations, discovered the pass by which the Canadian Pacific Railway now crosses the Rocky Mountains, and afterwards published an important paper on the geology of Lake Superior. In 1861, by Murchison's recommendation, he was appointed geologist to the Provincial Government of Otago, New Zealand, and thenceforth devoted his energies to that country. He became Director of the Geological Survey in 1865, and held the post until 1903. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1866, and was created K.C.M.G. in 1887. As a geologist his principal works include Reports on the Coal Deposits, on the Geology of Otago and other parts of New Zealand, and a geological sketch-map of the Islands. The volcanic phenomena and thermal springs, the fossil birds and reptiles, and the recent zoology and botany of New Zealand likewise engaged his attention. He was awarded the Lyell Medal by the Council of the Geological Society in 1877.

 MISCELLANEOUS.

THE GEOLOGICAL COLLECTION OF THE LATE JOHN FRANCIS WALKER, M.A., F.L.S., F.I.C., F.C.S., F.G.S.—Having regard to the great value of Mr. J. F. Walker's collection of Brachiopoda and its importance to men of science, Mrs. Walker and her son, Mr. Gelson Walker, have decided to present it to the Trustees of the British Museum. (See obituary in August Number, p. 380.)