

knowledge more than fifty years ago, even before Wallace and Darwin had entered the field.

Dr. Sclater's eldest son, Mr. W. L. Sclater, M.A., like his father, is distinguished as a systematic zoologist.

JAMES LOGAN LOBLEY, F.G.S.

BORN 1833.

DIED JUNE 27, 1913.

By the death of J. Logan Lobley the Geologists' Association of London have lost one of their earliest friends. In 1865 he became a member of the Association and a Fellow of the Geological Society, but most of his attention was bestowed on the younger body, of which he was Honorary Secretary and Editor 1871–3, Editor alone till 1881, and Treasurer 1881–5. Deeply interested in the field-work of the Association he conducted many excursions, and those to the Weald of Kent, in 1879 and 1882, will long be remembered by many who took part in them. Lobley's chief written work was his *Mount Vesuvius*, 1868, expanded from a pamphlet to a volume in 1889. He also wrote a separate volume on *Hampstead Hill* in 1889, and contributed a score of papers on various subjects to the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* and other serials.

From a position of comparative affluence fortune had laid him low, and his later years had been sad ones, in which he had eked out a poor living by coaching explorers and others in his favourite science. But he worked on to the last and passed away at the age of 80, at 36 Palace Street, S.W., just a few days before the announcement that the Government had awarded him a Civil List Pension of £60, of which he had already drawn a very welcome instalment, lightening the trouble of his last few months.

He was buried at Hampstead Cemetery on July 1, attended by Dr. W. S. Bruce, the Antarctic explorer, and a few other devoted friends from the Geological Society and the Geologists' Association.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WE learn from *Nature* (May 29, 1913) that a "new iron Bacterium" has been described by Mr. E. M. Mumford in the Transactions of the Chemical Society. It was discovered in the Bridgewater Canal tunnels at Wasley, Lancashire, where the water contains much iron derived from colliery pump-water. The new bacterium appears to have a twofold action, an aerobic action whereby it precipitates ferric hydroxide from iron solutions, and an anaerobic action which transforms the ferric hydroxide into bog iron ore with partial reduction of the iron to a ferrous state.

RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR C. LAPWORTH, F.R.S.—We learn that Professor W. S. Boulton, B.Sc., F.G.S., Assoc. R.C.S., Professor of Geology at University College, Cardiff, has been appointed to succeed Professor C. Lapworth, F.R.S., who is retiring at the close of the present session. Before his appointment to University College, Cardiff, Professor Boulton had been assistant lecturer in geology at Mason College under Professor Lapworth (*Nature*, June 12, 1913).