

had it not been for a small slip. I well remember the slipped mass sinking lower and lower until it reached the beach.

Prof. Judd says that the importance of the marine bed has been much overrated, as it is not a distinct formation, but only one of numerous local intercalations of brackish-water bands among the Oligocene strata.

To this I reply that although I have so constantly worked this area, I have never once met with any but this one zone, and have never until now heard of such.

I could say much more, but it really seems a waste of time, and of your valuable space, since one of my critics admits that he has not visited the neighbourhood since 1845, and the other writes as though he had never seen the place at all.

H. KEEPING.

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PIKRITE.

SIR,—I am glad to learn that Capt. John Plant has discovered the rock Pikrite (it is not a mineral, as twice stated in his letter) *in situ* in Anglesey. As I have specially studied the rock, and am aware of more than one variety of it which occurs in Anglesey, I shall be greatly indebted to him if, before he publishes his “map and explanation,” he will permit me to examine his specimens.

T. G. BONNEY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PROFESSOR SIR RICHARD OWEN, K.C.B., M.D., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., etc., etc., etc.—Professor Owen, who was appointed to the post of first Superintendent of the Natural History Departments in the British Museum in May, 1856, an office specially created for him, retired from official connection with the National Museum on the 31st December last, after 28 years' service. He had previously filled the office of Conservator of the Museum and Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, for about 25 years. Although Professor Owen's labours as a Zoologist and Comparative Anatomist and Physiologist are so important and extensive, yet he will be more especially remembered for his great and original researches into the extinct forms of life which peopled our earth in the old times, and his British Fossil Mammalia, Fossil Reptilia, his Extinct Gigantic Edentata of South America, his Fossil Reptilia of South Africa, his Fossil Marsupialia of Australia, and his Fossil Wingless Birds of New Zealand, alone form a stupendous monument of patient and masterly labour. His Memoirs on the Pearly Nautilus, on *Spirula*, on *Linulus*, on Camerated Shells, etc., betray the same extensive powers of observation. His memoirs upon the fossil long-tailed bird, *Archæopteryx*, and those on the great horned lizard, *Megalania prisca*, from Australia, specially deserve to be mentioned. The title of K.C.B. conferred upon him by his Sovereign is a fitting recognition of his life-long scientific labours. Sir Richard Owen will complete his 80th year on the 20th July next.¹

¹ We hope to give a full account of Professor Owen's life and work in a later Number, with a portrait of this distinguished Palæontologist.—EDIT. GEOL. MAG.