

of St. Petersburg, the same Academy publishing some two years later his memoir "Über einige arktische Trias-Ammoniten des nördlichen Sibirien" (pp. 22; 3 plates). In the same year appeared his work "Über einige japanische Trias-Fossilien" (Beiträge zur Paläontologie und Geologie Österreich-Ungarns und des Orients, Bd. vii, pp. 163–178; 4 plates). Having published some preliminary remarks on the Cephalopod faunas of the Himalayan Trias in 1892, his "Beiträge zur Kenntnis der obertriadischen Cephalopoden-Faunen des Himalaya" was published by the Vienna Academy in 1896 (Denkschr. d. kais. Akad. d. Wissensch., math.-naturw. Kl., Bd. lxiii, pp. 575–702; 22 plates), an English translation of the work appearing in 1899 in the *Palaeontologia Indica* (series xv, Himalayan Fossils, vol. iii, part 1).

Probably there is no one to whom we are more indebted for our knowledge of the Triassic rocks and of their Cephalopod faunas than to Dr. E. v. Mojsisovics, the zoning of the Triassic rocks being in a very great measure, in fact almost entirely, due to his researches.

He was the recipient of many honours and distinctions, the University of Cambridge conferring upon him in 1884 the degree of Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*). He was also a member of many learned societies, including the Geological Society of London, of which he was elected a Foreign Member in 1893.

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GENERAL SIR RICHARD STRACHEY, R.E., G.C.S.I.,  
LL.D., F.R.S.

BORN JULY 24, 1817.

DIED FEBRUARY 12, 1908.

THIS distinguished officer, who was born at Sutton Court, Somerset, was engaged in important military and engineering works in India from 1836 until 1871. The construction of irrigation works, canals, and railways was varied by active military service, Strachey having taken part in the first Sikh war; but while his energies were concentrated mainly on the practical applications of science, he was greatly interested in botany, meteorology, geology, and physical geography. Thus he utilized his opportunities, when engaged in topographical surveys, of making observations on the glaciers of the borders of Tibet and on the geology of the Himalayas; and the results were communicated to the Geological Society and published in vols. vii and x of the Quarterly Journal. He was a member of the Council of the Society during the years 1853–5, and again in 1866–7; and President of the Royal Geographical Society from 1887 to 1889. During the later years of his life General Strachey served at times on the Council of the India Office.

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REV. THOMAS WILKINSON NORWOOD, M.A., F.G.S.

BORN 1829.

DIED JANUARY 26, 1908.

THE REV. T. W. NORWOOD, formerly of Cheltenham, and for some years a member of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Club, was appointed Vicar of Wrenbury in Cheshire in 1878. There he remained for twenty-nine years, when he retired to Snaith in Yorkshire, and died January 26th, 1908, at the age of 79. During his residence in

Gloucestershire he formed a large collection of Liassic and Oolitic fossils, among which were many remarkably fine examples of *Hippopodium ponderosum*, *Terebratula simplex*, and *T. plicata*.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. H. C. SORBY, F.R.S., Past President of the Geological Society, which occurred at his residence, 6, Beech Hill Road, Sheffield, on Monday, the 9th March, in his 82nd year. We shall write more fully of Mr. Sorby's work in our May Number.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### NATURAL CAVERNS IN CHALK.

In a paper on the Chalk published in the *Rochester Naturalist* (see vol. iii, 1907, pp. 466, etc.) Mr. S. Sills draws attention to the natural chambers or caverns that have occasionally been encountered in well-sinkings or borings in the Chalk. Thus Prestwich mentioned a cavern that was proved in the Chalk at a depth of 270 feet below the surface at Knockholt, near Sevenoaks. It was 30 feet long by 12 feet wide and 18 feet high, with a stream of water running through it.

Beneath the city waterworks at Strood, near Rochester, a natural chamber was discovered in 1879. The cavern was found to be roughly Z-shaped on plan, the stem of the letter lying in the line of a fault from north to south. The upper arm was 28 feet long and 10 feet wide, with a height of from 12 to 17½ feet; it appeared to terminate in a tunnel-shaped fissure. The stem measured 16 feet in length, with a width of 9 to 12½ feet. The lower arm was 18 feet long and from 3 to 10 feet in width, ending in a large fissure which extended from floor to roof.

Later excavations proved the fissure of the upper arm to be much more extensive, and in 1903 it was explored to a distance of 130 feet from the cavern, and was found to be 4 or 5 feet wide and 5 to 6 feet high. The floor was paved with a layer of tabular flint; and the sides were scored, and in many places deeply undercut, by the action of flowing water. The stream would appear to have found its way primarily along the flint floor and, being intercepted by the fault, was diverted to the big fissure where it found exit to the river. The level of the flint layer is about one foot above low-water mark of ordinary tides in the Medway, and the rise of the waters to 17 or 18 feet above this level would pen up the stream until the ebb released the waters. Fine sand and clay washed down, from strata overlying the Chalk, through pipes and fissures, gradually silted up the stream bed. The force of the stream being insufficient to remove this silt, a fresh passage was carved out above it in chalk already softened by the water's action. This process was repeated until the present result was obtained.

It was observed that at various points, where deviations in direction took place, there were enlargements of the passage-like chambers; and that the excavation was both horizontal and vertical, while the roof was drilled deeply, as if by a tool, in many places.