

## OBITUARY.

THOMAS DAVIDSON, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., F.L.S., &c.

BORN MAY 17, 1817; DIED OCTOBER 14, 1885.

It is with profound regret that we have to record the death of another eminent British palæontologist, whose loss from our ranks we must all deplore. Although Dr. Davidson's ancestral home was at Muirhouse, near Edinburgh, he had long resided in Brighton, and had identified himself as Chairman of the Committee with the Free Public Museum and Library of that town; to which he had also been a liberal donor.

We published in April, 1871, in the pages of this MAGAZINE, an account of Dr. Davidson's life, with a portrait of himself and a list of his Memoirs to that date. He has since completed his magnificent work on the BRITISH FOSSIL BRACHIOPODA for the Palæontographical Society (of which he was a Vice-President), which occupies five large quarto volumes illustrated with over 200 plates drawn by the author's own hands. He has prepared the article *Brachiopoda* for the "Encyclopædia Britannica"; monographed the entire series of Brachiopoda collected during the exploring expedition of H.M.S. "Challenger"; prepared an exhaustive memoir on Recent Brachiopoda now in course of publication by the Linnæan Society, besides various lesser papers in the pages of this MAGAZINE and elsewhere. He may be truly described as one of the most hard-working and single-minded Naturalists of the present century. Although living much in retirement, he had been elected an Honorary Member of all the chief Scientific Societies in Europe and America; he had also been decorated with the Gold Medal of the Royal Society in 1870, the Wollaston Gold Medal of the Geological Society in 1865, and the "Silurian Medal" by Murchison in 1868. He died at his residence, 9, Salisbury Road, Brighton, having been for some time a great sufferer from an acute affection of the lungs.<sup>1</sup>

As a final act of generosity, Dr. Davidson has bequeathed his magnificent collection of Recent and Fossil Brachiopoda, containing a large proportion of the "types" figured in his various works, together with his Books and Original Drawings, to the Nation, to be preserved in their entirety in the Department of Geology in the British Museum of Natural History, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.

<sup>1</sup> His American friend, Prof. W. H. Dall, paid the last compliment to his labours in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for September (p. 429).