but of his predecessors in mammalian evolution, for if man belongs, as he certainly does, to the highest order of the mammalia, namely, the Primates, it must be a waste of time to try to prove him to be earlier than these his manifest ancestors. The classification of the mammalia was first reviewed, and the modern distribution of the higher mammals over the face of the earth examined, as a preliminary to describing their fossil ancestors and geological relations. A description followed of the zoogeographical areas of the earth's surface, and their characteristic faunas, and it was made clear that the Primates first appeared as very primitive lemurs in the Upper Eocene, as in the Wasatch formation of Wyoming, U.S.A., and in Europe in the Phosphorites of the Paris Basin, as also in Switzerland, and in Hampshire in this country, but that not until the Oligocene of the Egyptian Fayoum is reached are any traces of the real ape tribe to be found. In the Miocene they can be discerned a little more plainly, but only in the Pliocene do the larger man-like apes first manifest themselves. Therefore, in spite of the "Eoliths", it would seem, *a priori*, to be very unlikely that *Homo sapiens*, or his immediate lineal ancestors in the Anthropoidea, will be found earlier than this.

OBITUARY.

LIEUT. GRAHAM JOHNS,
Scots Guards.

Lieut. Graham Johns, Scots Guards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cosmo Johns, of Sheffield, was killed in action on September 27. He matriculated at Caius College, Cambridge, but did not go into residence. He was severely wounded at Ypres, July, 1917, and returned to the Front in March this year.

THE RIGHT REV. BISHOP JOHN MITCHINSON,
D.C.L., D.D., F.G.S.

Born September 23, 1833. Died September 25, 1918.

We regret to record the death of Bishop Mitchinson, Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, who was a lifelong student of geology and a devoted friend of geologists. From 1859 until 1873 he was Head Master of the King's School, Canterbury; from 1873 until 1881 he was Bishop of Barbados; from 1881 until 1899 he held the benefice of Sibstone, Leicestershire, and acted as deputy in much episcopal work; and in 1899 he was elected Master of Pembroke. While in Barbados he spent part of his leisure in making a collection of fossils, which he gave to the British Museum in 1892. While at home he made numerous excursions in search of fossils, and eventually brought together a good representative series, which he carefully studied and arranged in cabinets. After reserving for Oxford a few specimens, among which was the type of *Olenus Mitchinsoni* from the Shineton Shales, described by Dr. H. H. Thomas

in 1900, he gave this valuable collection to University College, London. For several years Bishop Mitchinson was a valued member of council of the Geological and Palæontographical Societies, and he was never happier than when entertaining parties of his colleagues in the Master's Lodge at Pembroke. The memory of these parties will always be cherished by those who shared his hospitality, for he was the most genial of hosts, the most lovable of friends, and full of lively interests.

A. S. W.

HENRY SHALER WILLIAMS,
Ph.D., F.G.S.

Born March 6, 1847. Died August, 1918.

American geology loses a distinguished representative by the death of Professor H. S. Williams, of Cornell University. He graduated as Ph.D. at Yale in 1868, and inclined at first towards biological studies, which stood him in good stead when he specialized later in palæontology. In 1879 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Geology and Palæontology in Cornell University, and in 1886 he became full Professor. In 1892 he succeeded Dana as Silliman Professor at Yale, and in 1902 he returned to Cornell. In 1912 he retired with a pension under the Carnegie Foundation. Professor Williams devoted himself especially to the study of the Devonian invertebrate faunas and the correlation of the Devonian formations of North America. His results were published chiefly in the Bulletins of the Geological Survey of the United States. He was a pioneer in the modern methods of palæontological research, and his volume on *Geological Biology* (1894) is an admirable statement of principles.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Cuvier Prize.

The French Academy of Sciences has awarded the Cuvier Prize for 1918 to Dr. Arthur Smith Woodward, F.R.S., for his researches in Vertebrate Palæontology. This is a triennial prize and was first awarded in 1851 to Louis Agassiz. It has already reached Great Britain three times, having been given to Sir Richard Owen in 1856, to Sir Roderick Murchison in 1863, and to Sir John Murray in 1894.

H. C. Beasley Geological Collection.

The Liverpool Free Public Museums have recently acquired the valuable and unique collection of Triassic fossils, rocks, and minerals formed by Mr. H. C. Beasley, which has been purchased from him by Mr. C. Sydney Jones, M.A., J.P., and presented to the City. The collection is chiefly a local one, and is especially rich in fine specimens of cheirotheroid, rhynchosauroid, and chelonoid footprints from the Lower Keuper of the well-known Storeton Quarries, and from Runcorn Hill.