

composition will melt completely in the dry state below 950° C. Coarse-grained granites may exhibit a segregation of quartz and felspar, revealed in section by monomineralic areas of several grains in anhedral intergrowth. The name "glomerogranular" is proposed for this texture, which may result from the normal undisturbed crystallization of the magma.

Dr. P. Marshall: "The Occurrence of a Mineral Hitherto Unrecognized in the Phonolites of Dunedin, New Zealand."

A mineral with low birefringence and low refractive index hitherto taken to be either nepheline or sodalite is shown to be distinct from these and to be nearer microsommite or davyne. It is usually allotriomorphic, but also occurs as very small (0.15 mm.) hexagonal prisms. Analyses of HCl-solution of phonolites containing this mineral to the exclusion of other soluble silicates indicate that it is a sodium aluminosilicate loosely combined with sodium chloride. The mineral stains dark violet when treated with silver nitrate. The name proposed for the mineral is ameleite.

Dr. G. T. Prior: "The Meteoric Stone of Lake Brown, Western Australia."

The stone, weighing when found 4.75 kg., has been known since 1919. Chemical analysis and microscopic examination prove it to be an intermediate hypersthene-chondrite of Barot type.

Mr. I. de Finály and Dr. Sándor Koch: "Fülöppite, a new Hungarian Mineral of the Plagionite-semseyite Group."

This was found at Nagybánya, Hungary [= Baia Mare, Romania], as small monoclinic crystals of the plagionite habit. Analysis shows it to be an acid member of the group with the formula $2\text{PbS} \cdot 3\text{Sb}_2\text{S}_3$. Associated with it is an acicular (probably orthorhombic) lead-antimony mineral with the composition $3\text{PbS} \cdot 4\text{Sb}_2\text{S}_3$, which is compared with the Bolivian keeleyite.

OBITUARY.

Sydney Savory Buckman.

BORN 3RD APRIL, 1860.

DIED 26TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

Sydney Savory Buckman was born at Cirencester, where his father, James Buckman, was then Professor of Geology and Botany. Most of his early life, however, was passed at Bradford Abbas in Dorset, in the midst of some of the richest fossil-bearing rocks in the world. He naturally became a keen fossil-collector, and as early as 1878 published his first paper on the Inferior Oolite Astartes. He soon concentrated on Ammonites and Brachiopods, and his first paper on the former group appeared in the same volume of the *Quarterly Journal* as his father's last; the difference in outlook of the two drew immediate comment, for while James Buckman reported species of different zones from the same bed, his son was already a follower of William Smith and Oppel, and convinced

that apparent discrepancies in zonal distribution were due either to bad palaeontology or inaccurate stratigraphy. At the suggestion of Thomas Davidson, he undertook the preparation for the Palaeontographical Society of a monograph on the Inferior Oolite Ammonites, the first volume of which came out at intervals from 1887 to 1907, during which time the author's ideas developed so extensively that the later instalments of the work were largely corrections of the earlier. The Palaeontographical Society would not agree to the publication of a second volume, and Buckman thereupon started a publication of his own, at first somewhat on the lines of the *Palaeontologia Universalis*, originally *Yorkshire Type Ammonites*: this broadened into *Type Ammonites*, and had reached in twenty years its seventh volume and almost the eight hundredth species when his final breakdown in health occurred last summer.

Parallel with his steady output of papers on Ammonites, there was an almost equal flow on Brachiopods, and a series of contributions on Jurassic stratigraphy. The detailed study of ammonite and brachiopod zones led to the realization of intra-Jurassic earth-movements and erosions, which gave fresh evidence for Godwin-Austen's principle of continuity of folding. Buckman was always ready to apply the idea of evolution to any subject, and, besides some contributions to Anthropology, he contributed in 1899 to *Natural Science* an application of W. M. Davis's principles of river-evolution to English rivers, which has hardly received the attention it deserves.

Buckman married, in 1882, the daughter of the botanist whose romantic association with his father is mentioned in *Type Ammonites* (v, 26), to whom he had already dedicated a terebratulid (now *Heimia hollandae*) and who with four sons and four daughters survives him. Kind of heart and with a keen sense of humour, ever ready to help his fellow-workers, his memory will be cherished by those who knew him. The value of his contribution to science is difficult to realize, for so much of it has been absorbed into contemporary thought that the unaccepted fragments appear unduly prominent to the younger generation.

A. M. D.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AFRICAN RIFT VALLEYS.

SIR,—In a paper entitled "The Origin of the Great Rift Valleys as evidenced by the Geology of Coastal Kenya", *Trans. Geol. Soc. S. Africa*, vol. xxi, 1928, pp. 63–96, Dr. E. Parsons—who has done a great deal of valuable work in Eastern Africa—set forth certain conclusions, the correctness of which has recently been disputed by Mr. Maufe and Professor J. W. Gregory. My own silence in respect of this matter is, I gather, likely to be taken