

## CHRISTIAN FREDERIK LÜTKEN.

BORN AT SORØ, OCTOBER 4, 1827. DIED AT COPENHAGEN, FEBRUARY 6, 1901.

PROFESSOR LÜTKEN, whose death, some two years after his resignation of the Directorship of the Zoological Museum at Copenhagen, removes another veteran from the ranks of the admirably trained and hard-working Scandinavian naturalists, was best known as a describer and classifier of living animals. But while, in common with the leaders of palæontology, he insisted that "only from the organization of the *living* form can we learn to understand that of the *extinct*," so also he was at one with the more eminent zoologists in recognizing that only by a study of extinct forms can we perceive the true relationships of the living. And it is because he put his creed into practice for over half a century that the close of his labours calls for the affectionate regret of geologists. That a notice should appear in this Magazine is moreover specially appropriate, since it was to it that he turned on the few occasions when he desired to address English readers in their own language. We allude to his notice of Lovén's memoir on *Leskia mirabilis* (GEOL. MAG., 1868, p. 179), his notes on the Ophiuridæ (1870, p. 79), and his criticism of Professor Kner's writings on the Ganoids and on *Xenacanthus* (1868, pp. 376 and 429). His own great memoir on the classification of the Ganoids appeared in *Palæontographica* (1873-75). From his many allusions to fossil Echinoderms we may select as early evidence of his penetration the constant opposition that he raised to the idea that the anus of the stalked echinoderms was a proboscis or mouth, and his severe criticism (oddly overlooked by later writers) of the division of the Crinoids into a Palæozoic and a Neozoic group. As a systematist the characteristics of his work were thoroughness, accuracy, and caution: qualities less showy than lasting. He was not a brilliant speculator on the phylogeny of unknown forms, but an advocate of, and an adept in, the synthetic method: "I mean that method which, giving up all preconceived ideas, patiently puts genus to genus, until families are formed, and family to family after their natural affinities, until the whole systematic building stands before us." It is work of this nature that will stand, that will vindicate the claims of palæontology to be heard, that will justify systematic zoology as a serious attempt to solve the problems of life, and that will keep science itself from the ridicule of the unlearned. We can ill spare such workers; but Lütken was a leader and a teacher as well as a student, and his monument is to be found not only in the books that he has left, nor even in the rich and well-arranged museum of Copenhagen, but also in the school of active and earnest zoologists that will long do honour to Denmark.

F. A. B.

## ROBERT CRAIG.

WE regret to record the death at Glengarnock, on the 14th January, of Robert Craig, in the 80th year of his age. Mr. Craig took an active interest in geology, and from his occupation as