

of steam to repel any invasion of water; but they seem to overlook the fact that when once the critical *pressure* of water is attained, there will either be no steam, or the steam will be compressed to the same volume as the liquid water at the critical temperature. If the critical pressure be exceeded, the steam will be still more compressed.

As the critical pressure of water is only 200 atmospheres, the moderate ocean depth of 1100 fathoms will suffice to overcome the free penetration of water or steam may exert; and at the greater oceanic depths, fire and water would be impotent to resist the pressure-control.

One thing I notice is that though petrologists reject the penetration of rocks by water under tremendous pressure, they gaily assume the free penetration of 'country rocks' by gases and liquids! They obviously will not allow the sauce for the goose being used for the more powerful gander.

A. R. HUNT.

SOUTHWOOD, TORQUAY.

September 9, 1909.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM FORD STANLEY, F.G.S.

BORN 1828.

DIED AUGUST 14, 1909.

MR. STANLEY, who died at his residence, South Norwood, at the age of 81 years, was the head of the firm of W. S. Stanley, manufacturers of surveying and drawing instruments. Well versed in all branches of physical science, he also took considerable interest in geology, and became a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1884. In that year he communicated a note—"A Correction in the assumed Amount of Energy developed by the Secular Cooling of the Earth as stated in two Papers by the late Robert Mallet." In 1887 he brought before the same Society some observations on the "Probable Amount of former Glaciation of Norway". Before the British Association at the Montreal Meeting in 1884, he criticized Dr. Croll's views in a paper "Upon the Improbability of the Theory that Former Glacial Periods in the Northern Hemisphere were due to Eccentricity of the Earth's Orbit, and to its Winter Perihelion in the North" (see *GEOL. MAG.*, 1884, p. 518). He was also author of a work on *The Nebular Theory in relation to Stellar, Solar, Planetary, Cometary, and Geological Phenomena* (1895).

MISCELLANEOUS.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY, MANCHESTER.

Professor W. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., has resigned the Chair of Geology and Palæontology in the Victoria University of Manchester, and he is succeeded by Sir Thomas H. Holland, K.C.I.E., F.R.S., who has for some years been Director of the Geological Survey of India. Professor Dawkins, after serving from 1861 to 1869 on the Geological Survey in England, was in 1870 appointed Curator of the Manchester Museum and lecturer in geology at Owens College; and since the foundation of the University he has been Professor of Geology and Palæontology.