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 OBITUARY.
 

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FREDERICK J. FOOT, M.A., F.R.G.S.I., Member Nat. Hist. Society Dub., C.E. Geological Survey of Great Britain, has been suddenly removed from amongst us by a melancholy accident in the early prime of life.

On the evening of January 17th, a number of people were skating upon the ice of Lough Kay, near Boyle, in Ireland. Two of them having ventured upon a weak portion of the ice, it gave way, and they fell into the lake. Seeing their extreme danger, Mr. Foot came to their assistance, and in a noble effort to save their lives lost his own. They were both rescued, but he was drowned.

Mr. Foot was educated in Ireland, and having taken his degree and passed through the Engineering School at Trinity College, Dublin, where Geology forms part of the course, he became attached to this science, and was appointed by the late Sir H. T. de la Beche on the 1st of August, 1856, an Assistant Geologist to the Irish Branch of the Geological Survey. Although from this date engaged in the minute examination and active physical labour connected with his duties on the Survey, he found time to furnish a number of botanical and other communications to the Natural History Society of Dublin, and several others upon Geological subjects to the British Association, the Royal Geological Society of Ireland, the pages of the *Geologist*, and other periodicals.

Amongst the latter he recorded his discovery of an interesting group of Trappean rocks, at the Horses Glen, near Killarney, in a paper to the Geological Society of Dublin, in June, 1856. He described the Geology of the neighbourhood of Tralee to the Geological Section of the British Association at Dublin in the summer of 1857. Noticed some new localities for *Posidonomya*, near Ennis, in a short paper to the Geological Society, Dublin, January, 1859; and in another paper, "On a Recent Erratic Block," read before the same Society, in November, 1864; called attention to the recent transport of a block of limestone, two tons in weight, from a distance of fifty yards—floated by the ice of a severe winter, some years ago, from its bed in the Shannon to shallower water near the shore.

In June, 1863, he obtained from beneath a bog in the County of Longford the indented bones and horns of *Cervus megaceros*, which furnished the subject of a paper by Professor Jukes, read before the same Society, in December of the same year; and gave rise to much interesting discussion and ingenious speculation as to the cause of their being marked and indented.

During the meeting of the British Association at Cambridge, in 1862, Mr. Foot read a paper, "On the Geology of the Burren in County Clare," and also exhibited and described a botanical chart of that district.

In connexion with his employment on the Survey, he contributed

wholly or in part thirteen small explanatory memoirs of the various extensive districts which he had examined, accompanied by several illustrations from his own pencil.

Amongst other results of his scientific observations may be mentioned communications to the Natural History Society of Dublin: "On the Botany and Marine Zoology of Clare," "On the Mammalia of the West Coast of that county," "On the Little Auk taken alive at Athlone," "On *Asplenium ruta-muraria*," "On flights of Swans seen in Roscommon and Galway, winter of 1863-4," and "On the occurrence of *Hymenophyllum Tunbridgense* in county Longford, and stations of *Cystopteris fragilis* in the (Irish) Midland Counties." In March, 1859, he discovered (and recorded in the proceedings of this Society) for the first time in Ireland, the lesser horse-shoe bat; and in company with the late Dr. J. R. Kinahan explored various Irish Natural History localities, the results of their labours forming interesting papers in the Proceedings of this Society.

He paid a good deal of attention to the meteorology of the places where he resided, and a paper by him "On a storm (called the Prince Consort Storm) which occurred on Thursday, October 29th, 1863, at Ballinasloe," was read before the Royal Irish Academy in the following month.

Being so much employed in Ireland, he had not many opportunities of extending his researches in other directions, but during short periods of leave of absence he made visits of observation to Scotland, Germany, Sweden, and Norway. Having returned from the latter country but a few months since, he intended to produce papers with illustrations containing his geological and botanical observations, illustrated by collections and striking sketches of physical features, etc. This design has been interrupted by his untimely death, at the age of 36, which has deprived science of an energetic and accurate observer; the Geological Survey of an able assistant, and left a widow and many friends to deplore his loss.

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At his residence, near Glasgow, on the 17th January, JAMES SMITH, of Jordan Hill, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c., &c., late President of the Geological Society of Glasgow. We shall give a notice of this eminent and veteran geologist in our next number.

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We regret to record the demise of a valuable scientific contemporary, "THE DUBLIN QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE," edited by the Rev. Professor Haughton, F.G.S., etc., of Trinity College, Dublin. We have frequently noticed this work in our Magazine, and are extremely sorry to learn from the Editor, that it will not be published in future.

A New Journal of Comparative Anatomy, etc., is announced to appear shortly, edited by Professor Newton, and Mr. J. W. Clark, of Cambridge, and Dr. E. Percival Wright, of Dublin.