

CHEVIOT PORPHYRITES IN THE BOULDER-CLAY OF EAST YORKSHIRE.

SIR,—I can confirm Mr. Stather's opinion¹ (expressed in the *Geological Magazine* for January, 1901) that the porphyrites of the East Yorkshire Boulder-clay were probably derived from the Cheviots. When I was stationed at Bridlington Quay on the Geological Survey, Mr. C. T. Clough, who mapped the Cheviots, came to the Quay in order to identify, if possible, the far-travelled erratics in the Boulder-clay. We examined the shore and cliffs from Bridlington Quay to Filey, and found a large number of porphyritic rocks, which Mr. Clough said might very well have come from the Cheviots.

J. R. DAKYNS.

SNOWDON VIEW, NANT GWYNNAN, BEDDGELEERT, CARNARVON.

February 11, 1901.

MUSEUM EXHIBITION CASES.

SIR,—The new Geological Museum now being erected here will have high windows and a long south aspect. The effect of this will be that the sun will fall suddenly on glazed cases and as suddenly pass off them, thus by the expansion and contraction of the air causing dust-carrying currents to force themselves through every chink. From this cause it costs about three times as much to keep cases and specimens clean on the side exposed to the sun as it does in the shaded part of a museum. This may be obviated by elastic diaphragms (which would hardly allow sufficient movement for such large cases as ours) or by small sliding shutters packed with cotton-wool something like Tyndall's respirators.

Can any of your readers refer us to museums in which such a system has been tried or give us any advice on the subject before our cases have been built?

T. MCKENNY HUGHES.

WOODWARDIAN MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE.

February 19, 1901.

OBITUARY.

JAMES BENNIE.

BORN SEPTEMBER 23, 1821.

DIED JANUARY 28, 1901.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. James Bennie, at the age of 79 years. For many years he was one of the fossil collectors of H.M. Geological Survey, and was well known to local geologists in the west of Scotland. In early life, before he joined the Survey, he was employed in a paper manufactory in Glasgow, where he devoted his leisure hours to the examination of the glacial, interglacial, and post-glacial deposits of the west of Scotland. He likewise collected fossils from the various Carboniferous horizons in that region. The results of his labours were published in the *Transactions of the Glasgow Geological Society*, and his glacial researches were communicated to Dr. Croll in 1867, as acknowledged in the "Life and Work" of that investigator. His Survey career, which commenced in 1869, was marked by his great

¹ See "The Sources and Distribution of the Far-Travelling Boulders of East Yorkshire," by J. W. Stather.

knowledge of the fossiliferous bands in the Carboniferous rocks of Central Scotland. He paid special attention to the occurrence of micro-organisms in the weathered shales of that series, which resulted in the discovery of many forms new to science, described and figured by various specialists. He was the first to record the occurrence of Holothurians in the Carboniferous rocks of Scotland, and was likewise the first to obtain the remains of Arctic plants in the silt and peat of vanished lakes that formerly occupied hollows in the Boulder-clay. With the remains of Arctic plants he discovered fragments of a phyllopod Crustacean, which is now found living only in fresh-water lakes in Greenland and Spitzbergen. Two years ago he received the Murchison Fund from the Geological Society of London, in recognition of his work. Quiet and unobtrusive in manner, and fond of literature, he showed throughout his life a keen love of nature.—*Scotsman*, January 30.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OF THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, JERMYN STREET, LONDON.—We have just been informed that J. J. H. Teall, Esq., M.A., Vice-President of the Royal Society, President of the Geological Society of London, has been appointed to succeed Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., as head of the Geological Survey. Mr. Teall is an eminent Petrologist and the author of many important papers on geology; he has published a most valuable monograph on British Petrography, with which special branch of the science his name will always be connected. He is universally esteemed amongst geologists, and especially by the members of the staff of the Geological Survey, for his geniality and urbanity to all his fellow-workers. As President of the Geological Society he has also won golden opinions.

THE NEW PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, GOWER STREET.—The Rev. Professor Thomas George Bonney, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., who succeeded Professor John Morris, F.G.S., in the chair of Geology at University College, in June, 1877, and has occupied that post with such eminent success for 24 years, retires this month and is succeeded by Mr. Edmund Johnstone Garwood, M.A., F.G.S., of Trinity College, Cambridge, a gentleman already distinguished by his geological observations and writings in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, the Geological Magazine, the Royal Geographical Society's and other scientific journals. Mr. Garwood has done excellent field work in the Alps, the Himalayas, in Spitzbergen; and in writing upon the Magnesian Limestone and the 'Great Whin Sill,' and the Life-zones of the British Carboniferous Rocks. He has been for some years a Lecturer at Harrow, and as a University Extension Lecturer is well known and esteemed by the scientific public.

Although Professor Bonney is relinquishing the Chair of Geology at University College, he intends still to pursue his scientific and literary work and will continue his clerical duties as heretofore.