

of their study. His enthusiasm, his energy, his genial humour and his far-travelled experience would often keep the attention of his youthful hearers for a full hour beyond the appointed lecture-time; and, though his voice has for some years been silent, his memory will not yet cease to be dear to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

THOMAS PALLISTER BARKAS, F.G.S., was stricken with paralysis about a month prior to his death, which we regret to record occurred on the 13th of July last. He was born in Newcastle on the 5th of March, 1819, and in his early days was a well-known lecturer in his native city on scientific and literary subjects. To geologists he is best known by his "Coal-measure Palæontology" (1873), illustrative of the fauna of the Northumberland Coal Field. In this book he figured numerous specimens preserved in his own collection, and others which he had given to the local museums. Mr. Barkas was a great populariser of his favourite science, and took a warm interest in the Newcastle-on-Tyne Natural History Museum.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CONCERNING NOMENCLATURE.

SIR,—In reading Mr. J. W. Gregory's Revision of the British Tertiary Echinoidea in the "Proceedings of the Geologists' Association," vol. i. parts 1 and 2, 1891, I was, of course, impressed with the industry and acumen of the author, but I was much grieved at finding that ten of the original specific names given by Professor Edward Forbes in 1852 are maltreated by arbitrary and unnecessary alteration, after the latest fashion of pseudo-classical nomenclaturists, who propose to bring specific names to one artificial form and standard. They forget that the original "*Woodii*," for instance, is preferable to *Woodi*, being more euphonious,—and that a name may be, as lawfully latinized after the plan of *Junius* as of *Iulus*; and that there are as many Roman names ending in *ius* as in *us*. Further it seems to be forgotten, or not known, that the genitive in a specific proper name indicates the author's intention of honouring the discoverer of the specimen, whereas the adjectival form, as *Branderianus*, has reference to one otherwise connected with the species. Thus, to change "*Hemiaster Branderianus*" to *H. Branderi* is to falsify, not only the fact in nomenclature, but the author's intention to indicate the method and degree in which he meant to honour the person named. The reduction of capitals in specific names, as in *branderi*, is unworthy of real literateurs, convenient to printers, if any of them wish to save a little arm-stretching in composing the type,—and depriving both beginners and experts of seeing at a glance some indication of the scientific history of the species. Linné's method of giving initial capital to any noun used as a specific name is far preferable to the new fashion, which is probably based on the unimportant circumstance that in ancient inscriptions only uncial and uniform letters were used.

T. RUPERT JONES.