I can only express again my regret that I did not re-write the objectionable passage which has called forth this friendly protest from one for whom I entertain the most sincere regard; yet I think that results arrived at independently have a value, even if they are not "novel."

WELLINGTON COLLEGE, BERKS. A. IRVING.

THE ELEVATION OF THE WEALD.

SIR,—In Mr. H. W. Monckton's idea as to the "retreat of the sea" in connexion with the marine abrasion of the Weald anticlinal (see GEOL. MAG. September, 1890, p. 395), he has got a glimpse of what has been obvious enough to most students of geology for the last quarter of a century. For at least that period of time Sir Andrew Ramsay's view of the marine abrasion of the original arch of the Weald anticlinal, followed by atmospheric waste and erosion (determining the present features of the country) has been before the world in his valuable and suggestive work, "The Physical Geology and Geography of Great Britain." Mr. Monckton seems to consider the area of the *deposition* of the Wealden series to have been approximately conterminous with the present area known as the Weald. In the light of what we know of a great series of Tertiary movements in Central and Western Europe, it must be rash in the extreme to assume that the present relations of sea and land are any index of what they were in even later Mesozoic time. The statement, that, "from some undetermined period [extending at least as far back as the Purbeck, *loc. cit.*] until the formation of the Gault the south-east of England was an area of depression, *and the progress of depression was more rapid upon an east and west line which now forms the anticlinal of the Weald than either to the north or south of it*," is in flat contradiction to Prof. Green's constructive sketch of the old Wealden Estuary (see "Physical Geology," pp. 294-6). I commend this to Mr. Monckton's attention.

In his concluding paragraphs it seems he has done me the honour to reproduce partly some arguments as to the non-commensurate elevation of the Weald, which I put before the Geological Society in June last at a meeting at which he was present. These arguments are given in a more complete form in my paper in the GEOL. MAG. for September, 1890, pp. 405–6.

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OBITUARY.

ORAZIO SILVESTRI.

WE regret to record the death of this distinguished Sicilian Geologist and Chemist, which occurred at Catania on August 17, after much suffering. Prof. Silvestri has contributed largely to our knowledge of the workings and chemistry of Etna, and to the general geology of Sicily, while his masterly paper on the genus *Nodosaria*, and his interesting papers on the works of Soldani are of great interest and value to students of the Foraminifera.

ERRATUM.—In GEOL. MAG. November, 1890, p. 501, fourteenth line from top of page, for "These are," etc., read *There* are, etc.—EDIT. GEOL. MAG.