

and the whole left for five days, except that it was occasionally pumped up to maintain the pressure, which dropped rather rapidly; in fact, on several occasions, namely at night, there can have been no pressure at all for some hours, as it was always necessary to have recourse to the bicycle pump in the morning. On being taken out after five days, the wood was found to be much harder, or rather, it was *tough*—I could make no impression on the wood by scratching with my finger-nail, but it had a hard *leathery* feeling when scratched. It was now allowed to dry by simple exposure to the air in my workshop, and in six days more appeared to be dry.

I should add that before hardening it as above described I had managed to cut one end of the wood flat, across the grain. The wood being dry, I now attempted to polish it by simple rubbing against a soft cloth, and obtained a fair polish, but, not having the necessary apparatus or skill to cut a section, I gave the specimen to the British Museum of Natural History, where it now is. Hoping that this description may be of use to others.

CHRISTIAN TINNE.

THE CHINE, WRECCLESHAM, FARNHAM.

January 6, 1916.

WILLIAM SMITH'S MAPS.

SIR,—I am preparing a monograph on Smith's maps, etc., for the Yorkshire Geological Society, and am anxious to see a "Reduction of Smith's large Geological Map of England and Wales intended as an elementary map for those commencing the study of Geology, 1819", referred to in Phillips's *Memoirs of Smith*.

I find that Smith's large maps of 1815 often bear a signature and a number, such as "No. 66" or "a 33". If any readers of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* possess copies of this large map, perhaps they would kindly inform me what number the map bears. It occurs under the "Section of Strata", which appears on the map to the east of the Humber estuary.

T. SHEPPARD.

THE MUSEUMS, HULL.

January 25, 1916.

OBITUARY.

HERMANN GRAF ZU SOLMS-LAUBACH,

Sc.D., For. M. Roy. Soc., For. M. Linn. Soc., For. M. Geol. Soc.

BORN DECEMBER 23, 1842.

DIED NOVEMBER 24, 1915.

COUNT SOLMS-LAUBACH was well known amongst men of science as a most distinguished botanist. His death was communicated to this country by Professor A. G. Nathorst, the Swedish Palæontologist of Stockholm.

Count Solms was born in 1842, and was in his 73rd year. He devoted his life wholly to science. He was Professor of Botany at Göttingen and afterwards at Strasburg, from which he retired a few years since.

His work extended to every department of botany. Perhaps the most important of all was that on fossil botany. He was an intimate friend of the late Professor Williamson. His *Palæophytologie*, published in 1887, was translated for the Oxford Press in 1892. In it the author impresses on botanists the value and significance of the geological record as affecting plants.

Of special importance may be mentioned his paper on *Bennettites Gibsonianus*, a fossil Cycad from the Isle of Wight; on the Cycadofilices, *Protopitys*, *Medullosa*, etc.; on Devonian and Lower Carboniferous Plants; and on *Psaronius*.

He was elected a Foreign Member of the Linnean Society in 1887, of the Royal Society in 1902, and of the Geological Society in 1906. He received the Gold Medal of the Linnean Society in 1911, and was made a Sc.D. of the University of Cambridge at the Darwin celebration in 1909.

[D. H. S. From *Nature*, January 13, 1916.]

THOMAS SERGEANT HALL, M.A., D.Sc.

BORN 1858.

DIED DECEMBER 21, 1915.

A SERIOUS gap has been made in the ranks of Australian geologists by the deeply regretted death of Dr. Hall, on December, 21, 1915, at the comparatively early age of 57.

Dr. Hall occupied the post of Lecturer in Biology at the Melbourne University, where he was greatly esteemed as a teacher. He was perhaps better known abroad as an ardent geological worker amongst the Victorian graptolitic and Tertiary rocks. In 1899 he contributed an important paper to this Magazine on "The Graptolite Rocks of Victoria, Australia". In recognition of his work on the distribution of Australian graptolites, embodied in many important contributions to various journals, he was made the recipient of the Murchison Fund of the Geological Society of London in 1901. The subdivisions of the Victorian Ordovician rocks were suggested and worked out in detail by Dr. Hall. He had also devoted much time to the study of the interesting and somewhat complex series of Tertiary fossiliferous strata of Victoria, generally in conjunction with Dr. Pritchard; and these authors originated the useful local terminology now usually applied to the subdivision of these rocks. In all his undertakings Dr. Hall was very thorough, and his intimate knowledge of the biological side of the science added to the value of his palæontological work. Always ready to help his confrères, especially in the domain of scientific literature, he will by them be greatly missed. His book on *Victorian Hill and Dale* has done much to foster a popular taste for outdoor geology, and his series of chatty articles in the *Australasian* on current scientific topics under the pen-name of *Physicus* were widely read. In the cause of maintaining a high standard for our Victorian scientific libraries, and especially that of the Royal Society of Victoria, of which he was the Hon. Secretary for fifteen years and President in 1914-15, Dr. Hall did significant service, which alone would justify his high reputation as a devoted scientific worker.

F. C.