

Edwards Collection of British Oligocene and Eocene Mollusca," to which I beg to offer the following remarks.

Mr. Jukes-Browne calls attention to the proposed disuse of *Cytherea* and *Triton*; two generic names which the reviewer discussed when noticing my book in "Nature" of October 29th, 1891. In a subsequent issue of the same Journal (November 12th, 1891), Baron Osten Sacken advocated the retention of *Cytherea* because the earlier Dipteroid genus of the same name being a synonym, and therefore rendered obsolete, could, from his point of view, be retained for another group.

Evidently these writers have not consulted the literature dealing with the Molluscan genera under discussion, or they would have ascertained that Lamarck's *Cytherea* had been replaced by his earlier *Meretrix* by many competent authorities such as Dr. J. E. Gray in 1847 (Proc. Zool. Soc. p. 183), Deshayes in 1853 (Cat. Conchifera British Museum, p. 34), H. and A. Adams in 1857 (Genera, p. 423), and other specialists, including Dr. Paul Fischer, who, in the latest and most elaborate treatise (Manuel, 1887, p. 1079) on the Mollusca, fully adopts it.

Concerning the name of *Triton*, we find that it has been used for three separate organisms: by Linnæus for a Cirripede in 1767; for an Amphibian by Laurenti in 1768; and for a Mollusk by De Montfort in 1810.

Writers on the Reptilia have ceased to regard it as one of their genera, because the Linnæan name has priority, and they have substituted *Molge* for it, a genus founded by Merrem in 1820. On the same grounds Malacologists also refuse to acknowledge it (as exemplified by the works of H. and A. Adams, Philippi, Weinkauff, Stoliczka, Zittel, Dall, etc.). Link's *Tritonium* of 1807 being the name now generally known for this shell, but as this differs from Müller's *Tritonium* of 1776, I have utilized the next most appropriate synonym, and brought into prominence Schumacher's *Lampusia* of 1817.

I hope this explanation will serve to show Mr. Jukes-Browne and others interested in this subject that the rejection of *Cytherea* and *Triton* as generic names in Zoology, being brought about through the operation of the law of priority, is now almost universally acknowledged.

R. BULLEN NEWTON.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY), CROMWELL ROAD,

January 13th, 1892.

#### READE'S THEORY OF MOUNTAIN BUILDING.

SIR,—I read Mr. Jukes-Browne's criticisms of some points in my "Origin of Mountain Ranges"<sup>1</sup> with interest, and until I came to the Postscript, which, like a lady's letter, contains the most important part of the communication, contemplated replying to them. This last paragraph however being destructive of the need of the preceding criticisms puts another complexion on the matter.

Mr. Jukes-Browne must be aware that I have replied to Mr. Davison's arguments against the "expansion theory of Mountain

<sup>1</sup> GEOL. MAG. Jan. 1892, p. 24.

evolution,"<sup>1</sup> and it appears unreasonable to expect me to discuss a fundamental principle at second hand, especially with the inadequate materials contained in the Postscript. Until Mr. Jukes-Browne has brought this central idea of Mr. Davison's, which he adopts, into harmony with his own ideas, it would be a waste of my time to traverse his criticisms, some of which present themselves to my mind as exceedingly immature. When this is done I shall be prepared to consider his arguments, and I must also ask him to be good enough to restate the first paragraph on page 28, as after re-reading I fail to understand it. His quantitative illustration is unfortunate as he has only exacted a tithe of what he is entitled to in my figures:— $500 \times 500 \times 20$  is not five hundred thousand, but five millions.

PARK CORNER, BLUNDELLSANDS,  
Jan. 8, 1892.

T. MELLARD READE.

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OBITUARY.

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HERR GEHEIMER BERGRATH  
PROFESSOR DR. C. FERDINAND VON ROEMER,  
FOREIGN MEMBER. GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, LONDON.  
BORN 5 JAN. 1818. DIED 14 DEC. 1891.

C. FERDINAND VON RÖMER was born at Hildersheim, in Hannover, in which kingdom his family occupied a position of some distinction, his father being a Councillor of the High Court of Justice, and his elder brother, Frederick Adolph, being a geologist of repute. Until the age of 18, Ferdinand Römer lived at Hildersheim and received his early education in the Evangelical Gymnasium of that town. In 1836 he removed to Göttingen, where he studied for four years, with the exception of a break of six months at Heidelberg: he had been enrolled as a student of the Faculty of Jurisprudence, but began to attend lectures in natural science, and soon became so interested in this subject as to entirely abandon his legal studies. In 1840 he proceeded to Berlin, and in 1842 the University of that city conferred upon him the degree of Ph.D. in appreciation of a palæontological thesis, "*De Astartarum genere.*" Dr. Römer remained here for another three years, devoting his vacations to investigations on the older rocks of Western Germany. His main results upon this subject were published in 1844 in "*Das rheinische Uebergangsgebirge.*" In the spring of 1845 he sailed for America; he made a very extensive tour through the States, and devoted a year and a half to the study of the geology of Texas, and especially of the Palæozoic and Cretaceous rocks of the western part of that State. He returned to Europe in November, 1847, and settled at Bonn, where he lived till 1855 as a "*privat-docent,*" but occupied mainly in the elaboration and publication of the results of his American expedition. The most important of these was his "*Die Kreidebildungen von Texas*" (1852), which, with some smaller papers, have been recently described by Prof. Dumble,<sup>2</sup> the chief of

<sup>1</sup> *GEOL. MAG.* June, 1891, p. 272.

<sup>2</sup> E. T. Dumble, *Geol. Surv. Texas, Rep. State Geol.* 1889, p. xxii. Austin, 1890.