

magnificent specimen of *Cycadeoidea*, which is now in the British Museum Fossil Plant Gallery.

Since this was published my attention has been called to the fact that it is to Mr. A. M. Wallis, guide and quarryman, of Portland, that we are primarily indebted for this valuable addition to the National Collection. Mr. Wallis, on discovering the specimen, at once realized its scientific value, and took care that it fell into the hands of those who appreciated its worth. I am much indebted to Mr. Strahan for calling my attention to this omission, and for furnishing me with the above facts.

A. C. SEWARD.

CAMBRIDGE, March 11, 1897.

#### THE AGE OF THE MORTE SLATES.

SIR,—If Dr. Hicks had only claimed that the Morte Slates are older than the Ilfracombe Beds, probably no palæontologist would have objected on the evidence at present available. But Dr. Hicks claimed that the fossils proved the Morte Slates to be Silurian.

If Dr. Hicks considers the Oriskany Sandstone to be Silurian, his views are as reactionary regarding the Devonian rocks of America as they are revolutionary regarding those of England.

In reference to the suggestion that I had not noticed that the specimen shown in figure 3 in the text did not belong to the same individual as the specimen shown in pl. x, fig. 6, I would ask whether the fossil fox on the staircase of the Geological Society and the fossil fox in the British Museum are to be called one specimen? I should think most people would call them two specimens representing one individual.

I am grateful to Dr. Hicks for emphasizing my argument that *Modiolopsis* cannot be recognized without seeing the dentition. But as this is not shown in any of the Morte Slate specimens, why were they referred to the typically Silurian genus *Modiolopsis*?

In regard to the identification of the big Brachiopod, I did not refer to the "characteristic ribbing," as I did not think the character worth referring to. I have nothing to add or retract from my remarks about this fossil, and prefer to leave the question to the ultimate decision of palæontologists.

J. W. GREGORY.

#### OBITUARY.

#### CHARLES TOMLINSON, F.R.S.

BORN IN 1808.

DIED FEBRUARY 15, 1897.

By the death of Charles Tomlinson science has lost a man of great learning, and who may perhaps be appropriately described as a Natural Philosopher of the old school. Although best known for his researches on physical and chemical subjects, as Lecturer on Experimental Science at King's College, and as one of the founders of the Physical Society; he was also a man of great literary attainments, and one who had given a good deal of attention to subjects of Natural History, including Geology.

He joined the Geologists' Association soon after it was established in 1859, and was for several years an active member, serving on