

with regard to the main questions all were agreed, as to there being no evidence in the areas examined by them to support the Murchisonian views of a conformable upward succession. Many other facts also of great importance were brought out in these inquiries. The author expressed gratification at the candid manner in which the whole question had been dealt with by the Director-General and the Surveyors in their recent report, and at their readiness in acknowledging that, after due examination in the course of surveying and mapping parts of the areas referred to, they had found the "evidence altogether overwhelming against the upward succession which Murchison believed to exist."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE JURASSIC SYSTEM.

STR,—Mr. Blanford states that a line of division drawn between the Cornbrash and the Oxfordian has no general value, "the (lithological) change being confined to but a small part of the earth's surface." England, France and Germany may be only a small part of the earth's surface, but I think most English geologists will be satisfied with a classification of the Jurassic rocks that is applicable to these three countries, and a lithological change does take place about this horizon in all of them.

Mr. Blanford proposes to include the Oxford Clay in the Middle Jurassic and to draw the line of separation between this clay and the Coral Rag, but he does not say whether he would include the Argovien or Lower Calcareous Grit in the former or the latter; he will find that foreign authorities differ, and that either course is unsatisfactory, if the line is to separate divisions of primary rank, the Corallian as a whole being as closely connected with the Oxford as with the Kimmeridge Clay.

In conclusion, let me admit that I stand corrected as to the use of the word "stage"; it should be retained for divisions of secondary rank, and I should not have used it in the sense of a primary division.

A. J. JUKES-BROWNE.

Jan. 19th, 1885.

OBITUARY.

SEARLES V. WOOD, THE YOUNGER, F.G.S.

BORN FEBRUARY 4, 1830. DIED DECEMBER 14, 1884.

Searles Valentine Wood, jun., the son of Mr. S. V. Wood, the well-known palæontologist, was born at Hasketon, in Suffolk, on February 4th, 1830. He was educated first at King's College, London, and afterwards in France. From his boyhood he began to take the liveliest interest in the scientific pursuits of his father. We find him as far back as 1843-5 assisting in the investigations in which Mr. Wood, sen., was then engaged of the Eocene fresh-water beds of Hordwell Cliff. Indeed he may be said to have been educated upon Tertiary Geology from his youth up. In 1862 he wrote an elaborate paper on "The Form and Distribution of the