

ON THE STRUCTURE AND AFFINITIES OF THE PLATYSOMIDÆ.

SIR,—I am very sorry to find that my esteemed friend, Professor H. Alleyne Nicholson, has in the new edition of his "Manual of Palæontology" (vol. ii. p. 138, *footnote*) committed the mistake of quoting me as his authority for elevating the Platysomid fishes to the "rank of a distinct division of Ganoids." No such proposition occurs in the unpublished paper to which he refers, which was written to follow up the views indicated in my account of the structure of the Palæoniscidæ (Pal. Soc. Mon. 1877) regarding the abolition of the suborder "Lepidopleuridæ," necessitated by the demonstration of the fact that the Platysomidæ, as a family, are not really allied to the Pycnodontidæ, but are on the other hand so closely linked to the Palæoniscidæ, by ties of structure, that wherever we place the latter family, thither the Platysomidæ must follow.

My paper on the "Structure and Affinities of the Platysomidæ" was read before the Royal Society of Edinburgh on May 5, of this year, and will in a few weeks appear in the forthcoming fasciculus of that Society's Transactions. Prof. Nicholson's mistake has obviously arisen from his having had only a very hurried glance over my proof-sheets, and that only on a single occasion. R. H. TRAQUAIR.

8, DEAN PARK CRESCENT, EDINBURGH,
12th Nov. 1879.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WE are glad to notice that Mr. G. A. Lebour, F.G.S., Lecturer in Geological Surveying in the University of Durham College of Physical Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has in preparation a Nomenclator Stratigraphicus, or Handbook of the Nomenclature of the Sedimentary Rocks. This work, which has been in hand for several years, consists of a list—as complete as may be—of the subdivisions of the Geological Scale now, or at any time, in use in this country or abroad. The names are arranged in alphabetical order as the easiest for reference. In every possible case the author responsible for each name is mentioned. The date of publication, the meaning when it seems necessary, and the equivalence, are also given. The volume will be of at least 250 pp., and will be published as soon as the number of subscribers has reached two hundred. Price to subscribers 7s. 6d. Subscribers' names and subscriptions may be sent to Mr. G. A. Lebour, 2, Woodhouse Terrace, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

OBITUARY.

WE regret to learn the death of Mr. John King of Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich, whose extensive collection of fossils from the Upper Chalk of the country around Norwich was at all times open to students. So long ago as 1833 Mr. King's collection was noticed as a large one, containing many rare specimens (S. Woodward, *Geology of Norfolk*, p. 32). These ultimately included a fine series of Echinoderms, Mollusks, Sponges, etc.; and numerous flints cut and polished to show organic and inorganic structure. Mr. King was the surviving partner of the well-known firm J. & J. King, Stained Glass Painters, etc., of Norwich. He died on October 19, aged 72 years.—H. B. W.