

pp. 407–437, and vol. liii, 1897, pp. 67–106). When Mr. Marr sees fit to produce satisfactory palæontological proofs in support of his views as to the Keisley Limestone I shall be quite prepared to modify mine, but until then I see no reason that certain features of physical structure capable of other explanations should be considered sufficient to nullify the evidence of the organic remains; and accordingly I maintain that the Keisley Limestone cannot be brought forward as an illustration of Mr. Marr's theory of the formation of knoll-reefs, whatever may be the value of that theory in other areas.

F. R. C. REED.

October 10, 1899.

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OBITUARY.

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GEORGE DOWKER, F.G.S.

BORN APRIL 2, 1828.

DIED SEPTEMBER 22, 1899.

THIS well-known Kentish Geologist, Botanist, and Archæologist, passed away at Ramsgate on the very day of his return from the Meeting of the British Association. He was born on April 2, 1828, at Stourmouth House, Stourmouth, the home of his father, James Dowker, and was educated at Sandwich Grammar School; he afterwards studied farming at Hoddesdon Agricultural College, and at the age of 30 farmed his own estates. It is probable that an early love for botany was due to his schoolmaster, the Rev. J. Layton, and it is certain that a warm friendship with William Whitaker turned his attention seriously to geology. He was a good antiquary and contributed numerous papers to *Archæologia Cantiana*, chiefly dealing with Richborough, Reculvers, Wingham, and Preston Roman remains, and with the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wickhambreaux. His botanical researches are mainly contained in "The Flora of Kent," edited by Hanbury & Marshall, and his geology found expression in the following papers: "On Tertiary Strata at Bekesbourne," "Water Supply of East Kent," "On the Junction of the Tertiaries and the Chalk," "Chalk of Thanet," "On the Mouth of the River Stour."

Dowker was a good microscopist and was well acquainted with the pond life of his district. He was President of the Margate Microscopical Club, a prominent member of the East Kent Natural History Society, and was its President for several years. He paid special attention to coast erosion, and contributed a paper on the subject to the last meeting of the British Association, while one on Dungeness formed the subject of a recent lecture to the Geologists' Association of London. Dowker was a good draughtsman; his fossils found a home some years ago in the Maidstone Museum, but he leaves a valuable local herbarium. He was a F.G.S. for thirty-five years, and a member of the Dover Antiquarian Society. He leaves a widow and nine children to mourn his personal loss; but his death deprives Thanet, and indeed Kent, of an energetic and devoted servant of science, of a type only too rare in his district.