

before that date, any influence on the part of Dean Buckland was out of the question. Professor Rupert Jones has, rightly, I think, referred to the statement regarding Huxley as “not only uncalled for, but unkind.” Will he now, for the sake of historical accuracy, give us his reasons for placing the burden of responsibility on the shoulders of the Dean? And will Mr. Hunt let us have the “long story” so far as it refers to McEnery’s notes? If, as he says, it dates “long subsequent to McEnery’s death,” again it is difficult to see where and how Dean Buckland’s influence was exerted.

J. ADAM WATSON.

“HAY TOR,” DENNINGTON PARK ROAD, HAMPSTEAD.
December 21st, 1901.

THE HOLOCENE DEPOSIT AT CASTLE CARY.

SIR,—In our recent paper on “The Post-Pliocene Non-Marine Mollusca of the South of England” (Proc. Geol. Assoc., vol. xvii, pt. 5), when speaking of the holocene deposit at Castle Cary (p. 234) we express regret that we were unable to obtain any information concerning it.

Our attention has now been called to the fact that an account of this alluvial deposit is given in the Geological Survey Memoir on East Somerset by Mr. H. B. Woodward, and we hasten to express our regrets to that author for the oversight. He gives the following list of shells which he obtained from the spot in 1868, viz.: “*Helix aspersa*, *H. nemoralis*, *Cyclas*, *Ancylus fluviatilis*, *Limneus*, *Unio* (fragments).” Of these, only one, the *Ancylus fluviatilis*, is common to our list; concerning the others, not having seen the specimens, we are unable to pronounce any opinion.

A. S. KENNARD.

B. B. WOODWARD.

OBITUARY.

PROFESSOR RALPH TATE, F.L.S., F.G.S.

BORN 1840.

DIED SEPTEMBER 20, 1901.

IF Professor Tate had remained in England his loss would have been severely felt by British geologists; as it is, that loss is to a large extent transferred to the Antipodes, where South Australia will increasingly lament the departure of one who has been so much to the science of the Colony. In this country his memory will linger chiefly in the minds of those who can look back beyond the last quarter of a century, but it will be a fond memory, based on sincere admiration of his powers and his character.

Ralph Tate was the nephew of the well-known geologist George Tate of Alnwick, where he was born in 1840. He received his primary education at the Cheltenham Training College, whence he was sent in 1857 to the Royal School of Mines, where he studied for two years. After some little practice in teaching at the Polytechnic he went to Belfast in 1861 as teacher of Natural Science