

me worth while to place upon record the occurrence of another species from the New Cut, Lincombe Hill, Torquay.

I have a pygidium in fair preservation, not excessively distorted, but without the shell, which I feel no hesitation in referring to *H. crassicauda*, Sandberger, from the Lower Devonian of the Eifel and Nassau. My specimen is rather larger than the one figured by the Sandbergers.¹ Owing to transverse pressure it has bulged to the left of the axis, giving the latter the appearance of too great width for the species, but this impression is corrected when the pleural portion (somewhat doubled under the bulge) is examined. The right pleural portion is rather imperfect, and a small piece of the flattened extremity is missing; but notwithstanding these defects, the profile closely corresponds with Sandberger's figure (7a).

To refigure a well-known species seems unnecessary, but I send the specimen for your examination.

A. CHAMPERNOWNE.

I am happy, after examination of the specimen, to be able fully to endorse Mr. Champernowne's determination of the species.—H. W.

METHYLOSIS AND PARAMORPHOSIS.

Sir,—The statement as it appears in my paper in reference to the above is incorrect. *Methylosis* is chemical change from without, while *Paramorphosis* is a molecular re-arrangement without any chemical change.

G. HENRY KINAHAN.

April 3rd, 1885.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE JURASSIC SYSTEM.

Correction of typographical error in Dr. Blanford's letter.

The Editor regrets that by a most unfortunate oversight on his part, the word CALLOVIAN, in Dr. Blanford's letter (on the third line from the top of p. 240, in the May Number of the MAGAZINE) was by error printed "Calcarian." The passage should read thus:—

"I did not attempt to enter into the classification of minor subdivisions like the Lower Calcareous Grit. But when Mr. Jukes-Browne calls attention to my omission to mention this band, he must have overlooked the circumstance that he has forgotten to notice the far more important *Callovian*, which intervenes between the Oxfordian and the Cornbrash, and which is one of the best known and most widely-spread subdivisions of the Jurassic system."

EDIT. GEOL. MAG.

OBITUARY.

JOHN WATSON LAIDLAY.

JOHN WATSON LAIDLAY, son of John Laidlay, Esq., of Fleetwood, was born at Glasgow on the 27th March, 1808. He commenced his education at a private school at Blackheath, and soon afterwards became a pupil of the illustrious Faraday, with whom he studied practical Chemistry, the enthusiastic pursuit of which had a great influence on all his after life.

¹ "Die Versteinerungen des Rheinisches Schichten,"—"Systems in Nassau." Atlas, pl. ii. figs. 7, 7a, 7b.

He studied Hindustani under Dr. Gilchrist in London, where he had the good fortune to meet the late Bishop Heber. When young Laidlay had only attained his 17th year he went out to India in 1825, and entered the employment of his uncles, Messrs. John and Robert Watson & Co., merchants and Indigo planters, Bengal, who were also proprietors of many of the best silk filatures and factories of the East India Company, such as Berhampore, Rampore-Beauleah, Surdah, etc. He was generally in charge of either an indigo factory or a silk filature from 1826 till about 1841, when he spent some time in Berhampore, *i.e.* Moorshedabad, where he made many friends. He married, in 1844, Miss Ellen Johnstone Hope, daughter of William Hope, Esq., of Duddingston, near Edinburgh, and after that resided in Calcutta. His talent for languages was very great, and his love of deciphering inscriptions on the stones of ancient edifices and on coins, and his perseverance in chemical researches, brought him into correspondence with many of the early scientific men connected with Indian affairs, who afterwards became his attached personal friends.

His most numerous literary and scientific communications were published in the Journal of the Bengal Asiatic Society. He was also connected with, and for a short time one of the Secretaries of, the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal. In the Journal of the former society his name appears in connection with numerous memoirs between the years 1834 and 1849. He originated the "Bibliotheca Indica," a serial publication of native Indian literature, which has proved a most valuable work, and is still continued.¹

His translation of "The Pilgrimage of Fa Hian" showed great perseverance. In 1839 he went to the Straits Settlements for his health, where he made the acquaintance of Rajah Sir James Brooke.

His services in India extended from 1826 to 1849, when he retired from active life to reside partly in London and at various other places, and finally, in 1854, at Seacliff, near North Berwick, Haddingtonshire, Scotland.

Here his private life was one of constant study and useful work in chemistry, meteorology, archæology, and natural history pursuits. But much learning did not turn his thoughts from a warm interest in the welfare of his family, and now that he is gone, they—more than all others who knew the never-failing charm of his conversation and the goodness of his large and generous heart—can realize how great is their loss.

At Seacliff, among other matters, he investigated the supposed rise of the East Coast of Scotland since Roman times, and showed, by means of the discovery of a prehistoric habitation near Seacliff, North Berwick, Haddingtonshire, on a rock only 23 feet above high-water mark, that, had the land been lowered, this habitation, with all its remains, must have been entirely swept away. See note in the *GEOL. MAG.* Vol. VII. 1870, pp. 270, 271.²

¹ For this work Mr. Laidlay succeeded in obtaining a grant in aid from the Government.

² For a fuller account of this interesting discovery see the *Trans. of the Scottish Archæological Society*, 1870-71.

Mr. Laidlay presented a collection of shells to the British Museum, and was also a donor of coins and other objects of archaeological interest to the Nation. He died March 8th, 1885, and leaves a family of five sons and two daughters.

PROFESSOR RUDOLF WILHELM DUNKER.

We regret to record the loss of this veteran German geologist, who died, after a brief illness, on March 13th, 1885, at Marburg, Hesse Cassel.

Wilhelm Dunker was born at Eschwege, on 21st February, 1809, and after the usual studies at the Gymnasia of Cassel and Rinteln, he entered upon a course of practical mining at Oberkirchen, etc. His first scientific work was the investigation of the Wealden formation, a task not before attempted in North Germany. Having passed his examination in practical mining, he entered the University of Göttingen in 1830, where he studied under Blumenbach and other famous professors.

Having completed his education, he returned to Oberkirchen in 1837, and resumed his researches in the Wealden, etc. (see vol. i. *Studien Göttingischen Vereins* S. 291 ff.). In 1838 he graduated in Jena. In 1839 he accepted the lectureship of Mineralogy and Geology in the Polytechnic School of Cassel. In April, 1840, Prof. Dunker was married to his cousin, Elise Sommer. At Cassel he prepared his Wealden Memoir for publication (drawing the plates with his own hands), and being assisted by Hermann von Meyer, who described the Reptilian remains. Whilst engaged on this work he conceived the idea of issuing a palæontological journal, which he soon after commenced with H. von Meyer (known as the *Palæontographica*), Theodor Fischer of Cassel having undertaken its publication. This work has now been in constant issue for 35 years, and contains a vast number of valuable memoirs.

In 1854 Dunker was chosen Professor and Director of the Mineralogical Institute in Marburg, and in 1880 he was elected to the Chair of Mineralogy in that University, where he resided until his death. He was the author of about 70 memoirs, chiefly upon the Mollusca, of which also he possessed a fine collection. He died at the age of seventy-six years, universally regretted by all his friends and fellow-professors.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DR. FRANZ RITTER VON HAUER, Director of the Geological Survey of Austria, with which he has been connected since its earliest institution, has been appointed by the Emperor of Austria to the post of Intendant of the Imperial Natural History Museum of Vienna, lately vacant by the death of Dr. Ferdinand von Hochstetter. The colleagues of Dr. von Hauer presented him with a sympathetic address of regret at his quitting the Survey and of congratulation on his appointment, and they have resolved to have a portrait of him painted by a distinguished artist, which is to be placed in the Museum of the Survey at Vienna.