

page 191, are these words: "Colonel G. Greenwood has favoured us with a letter on the improbability of the existence of real meteoric stones." In your this month's number, page 571, Professor Ramsay takes my side.<sup>1</sup> He thinks that the Greenland (meteoric!) stones may be of terrestrial origin; "that, supposing the earth to have in part an elementary metallic core, eruptive igneous matter might occasionally bring native iron to the surface."

BROOKWOOD PARK, ALRESFORD.

GEORGE GREENWOOD, Colonel.

#### MINERALOGY OF CORNWALL AND DEVON.

SIR,—In the very favourable review of my "Handbook to the Mineralogy of Cornwall and Devon," which appears in the Dec. number of the *Geological Magazine*, your reviewer remarks that "Stenna Gwynn is given as a locality for Wavellite, while under Tavistockite it is correctly stated that this is the mineral, as first noticed by Dana, that really occurs there, and not Wavellite, for which it was formerly mistaken."

On this point I should wish to make two remarks. First, that I did not give Stenna Gwynn as a locality for Wavellite, but merely stated that "*it is said to have occurred*" there, which is perfectly true.

Second, the authority for Tavistockite is not Dana, but Mr. Michell, of Calewich, near Truro, who discovered what he calls "Soft Wavellite," but which appears to have been what is now called Tavistockite, more than fifty years ago, and mentioned it in a book published anonymously at Truro, in 1825 or 1828.

J. H. COLLINS.

FALMOUTH, Dec. 26, 1871.

OBITUARY.—SAMUEL HUGHES, Civil Engineer, of Park Street, Westminster, was elected a Fellow of the Geol. Soc. of London in 1847, and died in October, 1870, at the age of 55. He early evinced a taste for natural sciences, and the most successful results of his more important undertakings in connexion with the supplying of water to towns was due to his knowledge and practical application of geology. He wrote the "Water Works" for Weale's Series, and throughout it he insists upon the necessity of possessing a familiar acquaintance with the stratigraphical relations of our rock groups. During the latter part of his life he rose to be amongst the first scientific gas engineers of the day, which was in great part due to those habits of careful observation and rational deduction which result from the study of physical phenomena. In this branch of engineering also he wrote the text-book for Weale's Series.

<sup>1</sup> Prof. Ramsay thought the Greenland (Meteoric) Iron *might be* of terrestrial origin; but he *did not* (like Col. Greenwood) deny the existence of real meteoric stones. If the Colonel will visit the British Museum any day, he may see a very large series of iron and stone meteorites, the circumstances attending the fall of many of which are well authenticated. As spectrum-analysis has revealed to us that many of the heavenly bodies are composed of like elements with our own planet, it need not surprise us to find that fragments of such bodies, falling on our earth, should be composed of the same materials.—EDIT. GEOL. MAG.