

AN UNFAMILIAR RAILWAY DANGER.

SIR,—In a short paper by Mr. Griesbach, C.I.E., of the Geological Survey of India, which appears in the Records of that Survey for May, 1893,¹ we learn that both lines of rails of the frontier section of the North-Western Railway, near the Station of Sanzal, in the neighbourhood of the Kójak Range, in Balúchistán, became violently distorted where crossed obliquely by a line of fissure which was caused by the earthquake of the 20th of December last. The first and most severe shock occurred at 5.40 a.m., but several others recurred at frequent intervals during that day and the two following. Photograveur illustrations of the scene showing the deflection of the rails, as well as a plan to scale, are given, from which it appears that the curvature of both pairs of rails, within a length of from 30 to 40 feet, shifted them more than the width of the track in each case, the curves being so sharp that any train passing along the lines in the dark, or without the occurrence being noticed or looked for, must have been wrecked. Buildings suffer more from earthquakes than Railways, still, these earth-movements are not so uncommon that Railway Companies should neglect the hint given by

A. B. W.

OBITUARY.

THE REV. HENRY HUGH HIGGINS, M.A.

BORN 28 JANUARY, 1814; DIED 2 JULY, 1893.

THE City of Liverpool has sustained a great loss in its intellectual life, by the death of the Rev. H. H. Higgins, M.A., who for more than forty years has devoted himself to the advancement of Natural Science in the midst of one of the busiest communities in England.

Born at Turvey Abbey, Beds, on January 28, 1814, he entered Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in 1833, and took his B.A. degree in 1836. He was admitted to priest's orders in 1839, and devoted four years to clerical duty in the town of Wolverhampton, proceeding in the following year to Shrewsbury. Mr. Higgins came to reside in Liverpool in 1842, and occupied himself with more congenial educational work, being made Inspector of the Schools of the Church of England School Society, a position which he resigned in 1848, though, as Hon. Secretary, and afterwards Hon. Treasurer, he retained connection with the Society. After performing other church duties, he was appointed Chaplain to the County Asylum, Rainhill, in 1853, which post he continued to hold until 1886. A long Eastern tour through the Holy Land and Egypt was undertaken in 1848, and described in a course of six lectures given at the Liverpool Collegiate Institution, the proceeds of which—amounting to £300—Mr. Higgins generously gave to the School Society. In 1876 he accompanied Mr. Reginald Cholmondeley in his steam yacht, the "Argo," on a voyage to the West Indies, which Mr. Higgins has charmingly described in a small 12mo. volume entitled "Notes by a Field Naturalist in the Western Tropics." Valuable collections of natural history specimens, now interspersed

¹ This paper has only just come to hand since the writing of Mr. C. Davison's article, see *ante* pp. 356-360.—EDIT. GEOL. MAG.