

scattered through it, but under a sufficiently high pressure it is dissolved in the paste or magma, and then it is neither steam, vapour, or water, though frequently spoken of as such. It seems to me that we have no reason to consider it otherwise than an oxide of hydrogen, and that we should speak and write of *Hydrogen oxide* or *Hydric oxide dissolved in the magma*. Up to the present I have got over the difficulty by writing and speaking of it as H_2O , but such gives me the feeling of looking pedantic on paper or sounding queer in words. I should be grateful, therefore, for any expression of opinion as to why *Hydric oxide* would not do, and any suggestion for a better term.

H. J. JOHNSTON-LAVIS.

BEAULIEU, A.-M., FRANCE, Sept. 29, 1897.

OBITUARY.

JAMES WINDOES, OF CHIPPING NORTON.

BORN 1839.

DIED SEPT. 26, 1897.

WE regret to record the death, at the age of 58, of the enthusiastic collector of fossils, James Windoes. Born at Woodstock in 1839, he settled in Chipping Norton some thirty years ago, during the whole of which time he was employed in the glove manufactory of Messrs. B. Bowen and Son. From childhood he manifested a great interest in fossils, but having no advantages of education, he had to pursue his studies entirely unaided. All his spare time was devoted to the search after and study of fossils, and probably no man living had a minuter knowledge of the strata and their organic remains in this part of Oxfordshire. Although of an exceedingly retiring disposition, yet he was always pleased to show his collection to anyone interested in it. Probably few people in Chipping Norton were aware that in a cottage in Albion Street could be seen a collection of fossils and antiquities, unique in its way; but Mr. Windoes was well known to the late Professor Phillips and Mr. T. Beesley, as well as to Mr. Hudleston, Mr. E. A. Walford, and others, who have acknowledged the valuable assistance rendered by him.

When the railway was constructed between Banbury and Cheltenham, Mr. Windoes obtained a fine series of fossils from the junction-beds of the Lower and Middle Lias. The specimens of *Cypricardia intermedia* were exceptionally well preserved. Again, at Hook Norton in the Upper Lias, and at Chipping Norton in various divisions of the Inferior and Great Oolites, he worked long and zealously, obtaining many fossils, and notably fine examples of *Trigonia signata* from the Inferior Oolite of Heythrop. Another species obtained from this formation was named *Trigonia Windoesi* by Dr. Lycett.

Notwithstanding his somewhat humble circumstances, Mr. Windoes could not be induced to dispose of any of his duplicate fossils otherwise than by gift or exchange. The present writer (who is indebted for some of the above particulars to the *Banbury Guardian* of September 30) well remembers the difficulty he at first had in procuring some specimens for the Museum of Practical

Geology, but an exchange was ultimately arranged by means of Geological Survey publications and some recent specimens of *Trigonia*, which latter especially gave great joy to Mr. Windoes. He was a true lover of Nature, worthy to rank with Robert Dick, of Thurso, and others, who, by patient industry and with little or no local encouragement, have rendered good service to geological science.

H. B. W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—We regret to learn that Mr. W. W. Watts, M.A., F.G.S., who joined the staff of the Geological Survey in 1891, has just resigned his position of "Temporary Assistant Geologist." The experience which he brought to the Survey from his intimate acquaintance with the Lower Palæozoic and Igneous rocks of Shropshire and the Welsh borders, the subsequent large acquaintance which he made with the Igneous and Sedimentary rocks of Ireland, and with the fine Rock-collection in the Museum at Jermyn Street; his detailed examination of rocks from many areas in England and Wales, and his special study of the older rocks of Charnwood Forest, combined to give him a knowledge that must have been invaluable to the Survey. His loss to the Service is deplorable on this account alone, to say nothing of his readiness at all times to give advice and assistance to others. Mr. Watts has now become Assistant Professor of Geology at the Mason College, Birmingham, where he will have a fine field for work in co-operation with Professor Lapworth.

ON THE POSSIBLE IDENTITY OF *BENNETTITES*, *WILLIAMSONIA*, AND *ZAMITES GIGAS*.—Mr. A. C. Seward, M.A., F.G.S., brings forward evidence¹ in support of the organic connection between *Williamsonia* and the Cycadean fronds known as *Zamites gigas*, L. and H., and in favour of the close relationship, if not identity, of Carruthers' genera *Bennettites* and *Williamsonia*. In the earliest descriptions of the Jurassic inflorescence known as *Williamsonia*, Williamson and other authors regarded the genus as the fructification of the plant which bore the leaves known as *Zamites gigas*. In 1875 Saporta expressed himself strongly against the generally accepted view as to the union of *Williamsonia* and *Zamites*. A recent examination of a series of specimens in the Paris Natural History Museum and elsewhere has convinced the author that *Williamsonia* and *Zamites gigas* are parts of the same plant. Evidence had been previously brought forward of the practical identity of *Williamsonia* and *Bennettites*. More recently acquired information leads to the conclusion that we are now familiar, not only with the nature of the Bennettitic type of inflorescence, but also with the character of the fronds which were, in some instances, associated with this Jurassic fructification. In view of the facts before us, it is advisable that the generic name *Williamsonia* should be substituted for the provisional and comprehensive term *Zamites* as the more suitable generic name of Lindley and Hutton's species *Zamites gigas*.

¹ Brit. Assoc. Meeting, Toronto, 1897: Sect. C (Geology).