

GRAPHITE AT KENDAL.

SIR.—A few days ago, in digging a grave in the cemetery at Kendal, a piece of graphite weighing about five ounces was found in the Glacial Drift of which the ground is composed. The cemetery is at the southern base of the Castle Hill, a large drumlin containing boulders and gravel, of Shap granite, Kirkby Moor flags (Ludlow), Ash (Borrowdale series), and other rocks. The granite is only found on the northern half of the hill. The other rocks might be derived from the valleys which converge on Kendal or in the line of boulder flow from Shap.

Unfortunately the graphite was not found in undisturbed drift. It lay a short distance above the lid of the coffin of an earlier interment made about 17 years ago. But it was so coated with soil that if it had not been accidentally scratched with the spade in digging, the sexton would not have noticed anything peculiar about it, and it is very probable that it may have been thrown out when the original grave was made, and reburied when the grave was filled in.

That it was brought by other than nature's agency is not likely. It was not usual at the date of the earlier interment to place ornaments on the graves, and the piece of graphite is not an article likely to be used for that purpose.

Probably therefore it has been brought down with the drift from some deposit of graphite to the North or North-East. It is not likely to have come from Borrowdale; for I know of no instance of the discovery of any rock which can be distinctly traced to that region in the Kendal drift.

Graphite being rare and destructible, I thought it might be of interest to record the discovery.

GEO. CREWDSON.

ST. GEORGE'S VICARAGE, KENDAL,
9th May, 1888.

THE METAMORPHIC ROCKS OF SOUTH DEVON.

SIR,—In reply to Miss C. A. Raisin's letter (see *GEOL. MAG.* p. 190) the chloritic rock is a little on the north (or more correctly the north-west) side of Prof. Bonney's fault-line where first indicated at the commencement of his "true schists." These schists are also in their line of strike, on the south side of the chloritic rock. A recent visit has, however, enabled me to find these chloritic rocks still further north, across the stream on the north flank of the valley, so that the stream cannot be regarded as marking a line of fault, which from physical appearances it might seem to do.

59, FLEET STREET, TORQUAY.

ALEX. SOMERVAIL.

OBITUARY.

WALTER KEEPING, M.A.,

BORN JANUARY 6, 1854; DIED FEBRUARY 22, 1888.

MR. WALTER KEEPING has for six years been lost to his friends and to science. In the vigour of early manhood he was somewhat

suddenly struck down by a form of paralysis, well known to medical men, which seldom spares its victim so long as in the present case. Previous to those six years we see him in full intellectual activity, after a distinguished University career and a period of further training as a teacher himself, settled down in charge of the magnificent collections in the York Museum, and giving promise of much valuable work for science.

His early education was carried on alongside of work, which he had to perform in positions of more or less importance and trust, ending in the post of assistant to his father in the Woodwardian Museum. At the age of 19 he won a Scholarship at Christ's College, and in due course graduated, obtaining a distinguished position in the First Class of the Natural Sciences Tripos of 1877. He continued to work in the Woodwardian Museum until he was appointed Professor of Natural Science in the University College of Wales at Aberystwith. His quickness of observation always attracted him to the study of the Geology of the district in which he resided.

The Lower Greensand of the neighbourhood of Cambridge, with its derivative fossils and rocks, as well as those which belonged to the age of the deposit, had received great importance from the economic value of the phosphatic nodules it contained, and early engaged his attention. It was then beginning to be the fashion to speak of it as Neocomian. In 1875 he published a paper in the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* on "The Occurrence of Neocomian Sands with Phosphatic Nodules at Brickhill." Five years later he contributed a paper to this *MAGAZINE* on "The Included Pebbles of the Upper Neocomian Sands of the South East of England, especially those of the Upware and Potton Pebble-beds"; and in 1883 the Sedgwick Prize was awarded him for his Essay upon "The Fossils and Palæontological Affinities of the Neocomian Deposits of Upware and Brickhill."

He was especially interested in the Echinodermata, and in 1876 and 1878 contributed some valuable Palæontological Notes to the *Journal of the Geological Society* in his papers on Palæozoic Echini; on the Discovery of *Melonites* in Britain; and on *Pelanechinus*, a new genus of sea-urchins from the Coral Rag.

On his appointment to the Chair of Natural Science at Aberystwith, he turned his attention to the geology of the surrounding district, which he described in this *MAGAZINE* in 1878, and in a paper on "The Geology of Central Wales," read before the Geological Society in 1881.

These and various other notes and papers, recording observations made by him in the British Isles and on the Continent, show a keen perception of details and a power of generalization, which led his friends to anticipate for him a long career of distinction and useful work. But soon after his appointment to the Curatorship of the York Museum, his health broke down, and after six years painful illness, he passed away in February, 1888.

THOS. MCKENNY HUGHES.