

discovered in the area. I may, however, recall attention to the Merton Boulder, which lies on the estate of Lord Walsingham, at Merton, in Norfolk. This boulder is regarded by Mr. Whitaker as Neocomian Sandstone, and it measures  $12 \times 5$  feet, but being partly under water its thickness could not be ascertained. (See F. J. Bennett, "Geology of Attleborough, Watton, and Wymondham," Geol. Survey Memoir, p. 10.) A more particular account of the Spilsby Sandstone has been given by Mr. A. Strahan, who refers to its tendency to weather into a loose sand in which great blocks of the unweathered rock remain here and there. Hence during the Glacial Period a number of ready-made boulders could have been obtained from the formation. Such blocks have, indeed, been recorded from the Drift in various parts of Suffolk, and some of them have yielded Brachiopoda regarded as Neocomian by W. Keeping and Davidson. (See Strahan, in "Geology of the Country around Lincoln," p. 88.)

H. B. WOODWARD.

#### THE LLANBERIS UNCONFORMITY.

SIR,—The courteous letter, which you publish from Professor Bonney in your June number, calls for only two remarks. (1) I am not aware that Professor Bonney has in any case tried to find out *for himself* whether any stratigraphical statement of mine is fact or fancy. (2) To have once silenced a gun is not to take the fort. How many of the ship's guns are still in action?

J. F. BLAKE.

### OBITUARY.

#### MELVILLE ATTWOOD, F.G.S.

BORN JULY 31, 1812.

DIED APRIL 23, 1898.

MELVILLE ATTWOOD was born at Prescott Hall, Old Swinford, Worcestershire, on July 31, 1812, and educated at Mathew Gibson's Academy, Tranmere, Cheshire, and afterwards studied at the Chemical Laboratory of Messrs. Watson and Pim, of Liverpool.

When quite a young man he was sent out to the Gold and Diamond Mines in Brazil, where he remained some years; on his return to England he leased and worked the celebrated Old Ecton Copper Mine in Derbyshire, and was engaged in mining and metallurgical works in the North of England and Staffordshire, and in 1843 he gave zinc a commercial value by successfully rolling the first English spelter. On the 15th October, 1839, he married Jane Alice Forbes, the sister of the late Professor Edward Forbes and of David Forbes, F.R.S., but in 1852, his wife's health becoming critical, he disposed of his interests and sailed for California, hoping that the change might benefit her; at the same time he accepted the position of manager to the Agua Fria Gold Quartz Company (in California), and in 1853 constructed at Grass Valley the first gold-mill in that country, for which he received a vote of thanks and a medal from the State of California.