

2. "The Graptolite-Fauna of the Skiddaw Slates." By Miss G. L. Elles. (Communicated by J. E. Marr, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., F.G.S.)

This paper deals not only with the collections of the author, but with the Dover Collection and others preserved in the Woodwardian Museum, with the collections of Professor H. A. Nicholson, Mr. Postlethwaite, and that of the Keswick Museum of Natural History. An account of the literature, both stratigraphical and palæontological, of the Skiddaw Slates is given, followed by a list of all the graptolites known from the beds. This list comprises 22 genera and 59 species.

In the ensuing description all the known genera and species are noted, and corrections and additions made to existing knowledge concerning the diagnosis, structure, and development of many of them.

The following seven species, new to this country—*Bryograptus ramosus* (Brög.), *Clonograptus tenellus* (Linn.), *Trochograptus diffusus* (Holm), *Pterograptus* (Holm) sp., *Didymograptus gracilis* (Törnq.), *Azygograptus suecicus* (Mbg.), *Diplograptus appendiculatus* (Törnq. MS.)—and ten new species and varieties are described.

A table showing the distribution of the Skiddaw graptolites in the Arenig rocks of Great Britain, in the *Phyllograptus*-Skiffer, etc., of Sweden, and the Quebec Group of Canada is given, and the accompanying (contracted) table (p. 286) expresses the relationships of the divisions of the Skiddaw Slates with the rocks of these areas.

In conclusion, the author is struck with the remarkable resemblances existing between the species of various genera; these can be so easily explained by supposing that the forms in question are the results of development along certain lines, that she offers the suggestion that this is their real origin. In dealing with the phylogeny, she divides these graptolites into two groups—

- (1) Those derived from a *Bryograptus*-form.
- (2) Those derived from a *Clonograptus*-form.

To the first group belong 15 named graptolites from the Skiddaw Slates and 4 species from other localities; and to the second 12 Skiddaw species and 2 others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LLANBERIS UNCONFORMITY.

SIR,—As my name has figured much in your pages for the last two months permit me to say that I have no intention of replying to Mr. Blake's "Revindication of the Llanberis Unconformity." My chief reasons for adopting this course are: (1) It would be necessary for me to investigate on the ground all statements which rest only on his authority, because hitherto I have so often found that what he deems facts appear to me to be fancies. For this task I have now no time, being tied much more closely to London than was formerly the case, so that my short vacations are devoted to work which offers greater attractions. (2) Controversy with

Mr. Blake is endless. What is one year “a crucial test” and “a decisive proof” is thrown overboard in another as absolutely unimportant, nay, as a good riddance (compare Q.J.G.S., 1888, p. 284, with id., 1892, p. 244, and this Magazine, 1891, p. 487). It is like seeking to tie down Proteus. Prove him wrong, that point is dropped and another is started: “Primo avulso non deficit alter Plumbeus.” I will therefore merely say that some of the slips or changes of opinion, which he attributes to me, exist only in his own imagination, and that in regard to one or two points where I have altered my mind (and have never made any secret of it as he seems to insinuate) I am not ashamed to draw fresh inferences when new facts have been discovered. Thus I have had to unlearn much that I was taught in my younger days about crystalline and metamorphic rocks by those to whom I looked up. So I am content (as I believe Miss Raisin is) to leave Mr. Blake apparently in possession of the field, unless it should happen that some former pupil, anxious to flesh a maiden sword, should crave for a subject, in which case I promise to recommend to him the “Revindication of the Llanberis Unconformity.”

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OBITUARY.

EDWARD WILSON, F.G.S.—We have just received (May 23rd) the sad intelligence of the loss of our highly esteemed fellow-worker in Geology, Edward Wilson, F.G.S., for fourteen years the untiring Curator of the Bristol Museum, whose published papers have appeared in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, and other periodicals. In 1888 he received the award of the Murchison Fund from the Council of the Geological Society (of which Society he had been elected a Fellow in 1872). Mr. Wilson's published papers date back for thirty years, and deal with the Red Marls, the Keuper and Bunter Beds, the Rhætic, and Lias. He has also published papers upon the Liassic Gasteropoda, etc. At the time of his death he was investigating the Uphill Cave Deposits, near Weston-super-Mare. He passed away, after three weeks illness, on May 21st, 1898, in his 49th year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY APPOINTMENTS.—The vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. W. W. Watts has been filled by the appointment of Mr. W. Pollard, M.A., D.Sc., who joins as an Assistant Geologist in the Petrographical Department; and that caused by the retirement of Mr. De Rance has been filled by Mr. C. B. Wedd, B.A., as Assistant Geologist. In Ireland, the petrographical work will be carried on by Mr. H. J. Seymour, B.A., who succeeds as Assistant Geologist to the post left vacant by the resignation of Professor Sollas.