

## OBITUARY.

## SAMUEL SHARP, F.S.A., F.G.S.

BORN JULY 18th, 1814; DIED JANUARY 28th, 1882.

SAMUEL SHARP was born at Romsey in Hampshire, July 18th, 1814. He received his early education at a private school in Southsea, but owing to his father's death while he was still a boy, he removed with his family to Stamford in Lincolnshire. Mr. Sharp's stepfather was the proprietor and editor of the *Stamford Mercury*, the oldest and most widely circulated newspaper in the Midland Counties, and for some years Mr. Sharp assisted him in managing and editing this journal. From a very early age he had shown a taste for the study of science, especially Astronomy and Chemistry, and his attention appears to have been directed to the subject of Geology by a lecture delivered at Stamford by Mr. G. F. Richardson. Subsequently he had the advantage of studying the Oolitic districts around his home with Professor Morris, and other geologists, and gradually accumulated a large and valuable collection of fossils. In 1857, Mr. Sharp removed from Stamford, and went to live in the neighbourhood of Northampton. There he continued to collect largely from the Jurassic rocks, and his work was facilitated by the excavations then being carried on in all directions for raising the valuable iron-ore of the Northampton Sand. The general results of his observations on the district in which he lived were communicated to the Geological Society of London in two valuable papers on the Oolites of Northamptonshire, which were published in the Quarterly Journal. He wrote a little text-book, "The Rudiments of Geology," which has passed through two editions. As an Archæologist, Mr. Sharp was not less widely known than as a Geologist. On all questions of local antiquities he was one of the highest authorities in the Midland district, and many valuable papers relating to these subjects were contributed by him to the local journals. But it was as a Numismatist that Mr. Sharp especially distinguished himself. During the last thirty years he by unwearied exertions succeeded in bringing together an unrivalled collection illustrating the productions of the famous Stamford Mint. His valuable memoir on these interesting coins, with its several supplements, was published by the Numismatic Society, and constitutes the best authority on the subject. He laboured energetically to found a good provincial museum in the town of Northampton, and placed therein valuable contributions from his own large geological and antiquarian collections. Mr. Sharp was one of the most genial and hospitable of men, and was never happier than when contributing to the instruction and pleasure of others from the stores of knowledge which he had gradually acquired concerning the geology and antiquities of his adopted county. During his later years Mr. Sharp was precluded from active exertions in the field by feebleness and ill-health, but to the end he took a lively interest in the advance of our science. He died at Great Harrowden Hall on the 28th January, 1882, in his 68th year.—J. W. J.