

respectively—5, 6½; 8, 9; 8½, 6½; 6, 6; 3½, 3½; 6½, 7½; 21½, 12½; 8, 6; 8½, 7; 10, 8; 10½, 10; 7½, 6½.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HORIZON OF *PRODUCTUS HUMEROSUS*.

SIR,—In reply to Dr. Wheelton Hind's letter in the October number of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, may I point out that there appear to be two forms of *Productus humerosus* occurring at different horizons. The earlier form is evidently characteristic of the Belgian "*sub-lævis*" level (C-S), while the later mutation is found in the *Dibunophyllum* zone. The late Dr. Vaughan, in his paper on the "Correlation of Dinantian and Avonian", published in the *Q.J.G.S.*, vol. lxxi, No. 281, refers to this matter, and mentions, on p. 47, that the Clitheroe form is the early variety of *Productus sublævis*. For the present I conclude, from evidence stated in my paper, that the Leicestershire beds contain the later advanced form of *P. humerosus*, and are of D₁ age, but I am looking forward to reading, with much pleasure, Dr. Hind's forthcoming paper on the Clitheroe area, and will then carefully reconsider the question.

L. M. PARSONS.

110 LEWIN ROAD,
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OBITUARY.

SAMUEL WENDELL WILLISTON, M.D.

BORN JULY 10, 1852.

DIED OCTOBER, 1918.

VERTEBRATE palæontology loses a distinguished student by the death of Professor S. W. Williston. After leaving school he entered the Kansas Agricultural College, where his interest in geology was roused by Professor B. F. Mudge. He was then employed by Professor O. C. Marsh as one of his fossil-collectors in Kansas and other western territories of the United States. At the same time he helped with the preparation of the fossils in the Yale University Museum, and also pursued medical studies, which eventually led to his graduating as M.D. He was deeply interested both in the fossils and in the living animals which he met with during his explorations, and so early as 1877 he began to publish small notes. Professor Marsh, however, discouraged Williston's researches on fossils, and he therefore turned in earnest to dipterous insects, on which he became one of the leading authorities in the United States. In the early eighties he was appointed Professor of Geology and Palæontology in the State University of Kansas at Lawrence, where he brought together a great collection of fossils from the Cretaceous and Carboniferous formations of the State. In 1902 he removed to the newly instituted chair of Palæontology in the University of Chicago, where he continued active researches until nearly the time of his death.

While at Lawrence, Williston's most important work was his investigation of the reptiles found in the Chalk of Kansas, and the results were finally summarized in a well-illustrated volume of the University Geological Survey of Kansas (vol. iv, Palæontology, pt. i) published in 1898. In his early years at Chicago he continued these researches, and his valuable papers on Plesiosaurs and Pterodactyls in the Publication of the Field Columbian Museum, No. 78 (1903), may be specially mentioned. He also published a little semi-popular volume on *Water Reptiles* (1914). During the last decade he devoted attention chiefly to the Permian Reptiles from Texas and Missouri, describing important collections which he acquired for the University of Chicago. These form the subject both of numerous papers and of a small well-illustrated volume on *American Permian Vertebrates*, issued by the Chicago University Press in 1912. Many of the papers not only describe the fossils, but also discuss the bearing of the new facts on some of the most fundamental problems of vertebrate morphology. A complete list of Williston's papers up to date, prefaced by a beautiful portrait, was printed by J. T. Hathaway at New Haven in 1911.

Williston was an attractive personality and left many devoted pupils, of whom some have already made important contributions to the science of which he was so successful an exponent. A. S. W.

MISS MAUDE SEYMOUR.

BORN 1887.

DIED NOVEMBER 6, 1918.

THOSE Fellows of the Geological Society who have been accustomed to use the Library during the last few years will hear with much regret of the death of Miss Seymour, who was appointed as an assistant in the Library on September 1, 1915. The valuable experience gained during several years of training on the staff of the Royal Society's Catalogue of Scientific Papers gave her the advantage of a special knowledge of the literature with which she had to deal. She devoted herself to the work with marked ability, and her unflagging zeal and amiability of disposition substantially relieved the pressure of an exceptionally harassing period. During this time she gained an intimate knowledge of the work involved in the preparation of the *Geological Literature*; and by her sudden and untimely death the Geological Society has lost a valuable official whom it will be difficult to replace.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SWINEY LECTURES ON GEOLOGY.

The lectures for the years 1918-1919 will be given by Professor T. J. Jehu, M.D., F.R.S.E., at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., on various days during the months of December, 1918, and January, 1919. The title chosen for the course is "Man and his Ancestry", and the published syllabus of the twelve lectures promises a comprehensive treatment of this important subject. Admission to the lectures free.