

JAMES YATES, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.—With regret we record the loss of this amiable and learned man of science. James Yates was born at Liverpool in 1789. He studied at Edinburgh and Glasgow, taking his M.A. in 1812. The early years of his active life were devoted to the ministry in connexion with the Unitarian Church, first at Glasgow, then at Birmingham, and finally at London. Having retired from the ministry, he devoted himself to scientific and literary pursuits. He was elected a member of the Geological Society in 1819, of the Linnæan in 1822, and of the Royal in 1839. He was one of the founders of the British Association, and took an active part in its early management. In later years he specially devoted his attention to the question of a uniform international system of decimal coins, weights, and measures. This subject, together with the arranging and annotating the Canton Papers for the Royal Society, engaged his thoughts up to the time of his death. His first paper was published in the original series of the Geological Transactions in 1821. It was devoted to a description of an argillaceous limestone from Staffordshire. This was followed by others treating of petrological, stratigraphical, and palæontological questions. He early devoted attention to the remarkable Oolitic Cycads of Yorkshire; and submitted to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society a restoration of their numerous though fragmentary remains, which was the first attempt at a scientific estimate of their relations to known structures. He was specially fitted to deal with these fossils, from his extensive acquaintance with the living Cycads. In his Palm House, at Highgate, he had collected the largest series of living Cycads that have ever belonged to a private individual, or that have been brought together, perhaps, in any public institution. Considering the important part which the Cycads have played in the Secondary Floras of Britain, few sights in the neighbourhood of London were more instructive to the geologist than Mr. Yates's Cycadæ, which were always open to every inquirer. Indeed, Mr. Yates seemed to realize that his collections were performing their highest functions and amply repaying all his trouble and labour when they were made the means of supplying information to scientific men. He made extensive notes on his specimens, and when chance gave him a dead plant or a fruit, he carefully dissected it. Some of these valuable observations have been published in the *Linnæan Journal* and the *Gardener's Chronicle*. His botanical manuscripts, and his collection of dried foliage and fruits of Cycadæ he presented some years ago to the Botanical Department of the British Museum. Miquel dedicated a species of *Zamia* to him, and Mr. Carruthers gave his name to a genus of fossil Cycads, the type of which was published in the Fourth Volume of this MAGAZINE, Plate IX., under the name *Cycadoidea Yatesii*, being now *Yatesia Morrisii*. James Yates died at Lauderdale House, Highgate, on the 7th of May, 1871, at the age of 82. He has left a handsome bequest to the Geological Society, which will long preserve his memory among the members of that Society. A large circle will not soon forget the extensive learning, the thorough integrity, and the unvaried urbanity which characterized their departed friend.

W. C.