

other crag had been struck during the very heavy thunderstorm which passed over the district on a Sunday evening in the Summer of 1898 (I do not remember the exact date), when several beasts were killed by lightning. In this case some blocks have been thrown eighteen yards from the parent rock; the largest of these is between ten and eleven cubic feet in size, and there are several others lying beside it measuring three cubic feet and less. One huge block measuring sixty-four cubic feet had been thrown twenty-six yards. There are no marks of vitrification on the stricken crags nor on the detached fragments. The lightning has done nothing more than to break off slices and chunks and cast them to a distance.

On subsequently examining the ground again I found several other places where the rocks had been struck by lightning.

The name of the place given on the Ordnance Map is Cerig y Mellt. If this name is correct it is significant, for the words mean 'rocks of lightning'; but there is some doubt as to what is the correct name, for Mr. Roberts tells me that he learnt from his father to call the place Cerig y Myllt, which means 'rocks of the wethers.'

J. R. DAKYNS.

SNOWDON VIEW, NANT GWYNANT, BEDDGELERT.

January 25, 1902.

OBITUARY.

HON. CLARENCE KING, F.G.S.

BORN

DIED DECEMBER 24, 1901.

In the death of Clarence King geological science has lost one who rendered distinguished service in the surveys of the United States. He was born at Newport, Rhode Island, and graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University in 1852. He prepared the geological and topographical atlas and several important reports for the Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel, and when in 1880 this and other geological surveys were amalgamated as the United States Geological Survey, Mr. King was appointed Director. Under his charge the Survey was carried on with vigour, and special investigations were made on regions of exceptional economic importance. A year later, however, Mr. King relinquished his position, desiring to devote himself unfettered to geological research. His fame, however, rests on his official work. Mr. King died at Phoenix, Arizona, on December 24th, 1901.

REV. FREDERICK SMITHE, M.A., LL.D., F.G.S.

BORN 1822.

DIED DECEMBER 9, 1900.

WE learn from the recently published Address of the President of the Cotteswold Club (Mr. E. B. Wethered) of the death more than a year ago of Dr. Frederick Smithe, vicar of Churchdown in Gloucestershire. He laboured for many years with great enthusiasm

at the fossils of the Middle and Upper Lias in the outliers of Churchdown, Alderton and Dumbleton; and his observations on these and other subjects were communicated to the Proceedings of the Cotteswold Club. He belonged to an Irish family, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ROYAL SOCIETY.—A revised and much enlarged edition of the Record of the Royal Society of London has lately been issued. The principal feature of the new edition is the inclusion of two lists of Fellows of the Society from its foundation to the end of 1900, one arranged chronologically and the other alphabetically. It would have been interesting to have portraits of the thirty-seven presidents, but none of those given in the former edition of the Record published in 1897 are repeated, while three only are now inserted. Geological science has been represented in the presidential chair by Wollaston, the Marquis of Northampton, and Huxley.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Mr. R. H. Tiddeman, M.A., F.G.S., who joined the staff of the Geological Survey in 1864, under Murchison, has just retired from the public service.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.—In vol. xi of the Bulletin of this Museum there has been published a catalogue of the types and figured fossils contained in the geological department, and which number 8,345, representing 2,721 species and 190 varieties. The catalogue has been prepared by Mr. R. P. Whitfield, the Curator, and his associate Mr. E. O. Hovey. The chief palæontological possession of the Museum is the great James Hall collection, which was purchased in 1875, and which includes a large number of type and other illustrated specimens, especially of Palæozoic species. Most of the 'figured specimens' in the series are those which were identified, redescribed, illustrated, and published by Professor Hall in the early volumes of the "Palæontology of New York." The Museum also has the Holmes collection, which includes more than two hundred of the specimens described and figured in Tuomey and Holmes's "Pliocene Fossils of South Carolina" and in Francis S. Holmes's work on the "Post-Pliocene Fossils of South Carolina." It contains, moreover, many Cretaceous forms from Beirût, Syria, and from Jamaica. The term 'type' is employed to embrace not only the specimens actually used by an author in the original description of a species, but also those specimens which have been used by the same author in the further elucidation of the species in subsequent publications. 'Figured specimen' is the term applied here to the specimens which have been identified with a species by another person than the author of the species, and which have been illustrated in some publication.