

was a weathered and decalcified brown loam, and the geologists who have given testimony could not express opinions whether or not there had been evidence of interment.

In Dr. A. Keith's "Description of the Ipswich Skeleton" (with illustrations) he refers to the Heidelberg jaw and the fossil man of Java, observing that "the Ipswich man differed profoundly from both of these, and in every point in which he differs from them he approaches modern man". Further and more precise evidence is required, and although we agree that many rude pre-Palæolithic or Eolithic implements may have been utilized by man in early Pleistocene times, we have yet to be convinced that he lived in Britain during the Pliocene period.

NOTE.—Several references have already been made to the Ipswich skeleton: see article by G. Salter, *GEOL. MAG.*, April, 1912, pp. 164-9; letter by Professor T. McKenny Hughes, *F.R.S.*, April, pp. 187-8; letter by J. Reid Moir, May, pp. 239-40; Report Royal Anthropological Institute, June, pp. 287-8.

#### XI.—BRIEF NOTICES.

1. UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—From this institution we have received a list (pp. 116, with good index, 1912) of all the serial publications of the Survey, including Annual Reports, Monographs, Professional Papers, Bulletins, Water-supply and Irrigation Papers, Mineral Resources, Topographic Atlas (folios and separate sheets), and Geological Atlas (folios). The list is complete to date, except as regards the particulars of the topographic maps and authors of both memoirs and maps are recorded.

2. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The Annual Progress Report of this Survey for 1911 (Perth, 1912) by the Government Geologist, Mr. A. Gibb Maitland, contains brief records of the work done in the field, office, and laboratory. It is noted that samples of fergusonite (tantalum salt) from Cooglegong prove to be of economic importance, and may lead to an industry for the preparation of tantalum salts. Since the new radio-active mineral, pilbarite, was discovered at Wodgina, two further minerals containing uranium, radium, and thorium have been found in the same lode. These may be identified with mackintoshite and thorigummite, previously recorded from Texas. All three minerals are of high commercial value.

### REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

#### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

*November 6, 1912.*—Dr. Aubrey Strahan, *F.R.S.*, President,  
in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. "A Contribution to our Knowledge of Wealden Floras, with Special Reference to a Collection of Plants from Sussex." By Albert Charles Seward, *M.A.*, *F.R.S.*, *F.L.S.*, *F.G.S.*, Professor of Botany in Cambridge University.

In this paper an account is given of specimens of Wealden plants