

table<sup>1</sup> where certain strata are numbered to show their dates with regard to a column of hemera affixed. This he declares makes hemera a stratigraphical unit! Does he mean to say that in an ordinary calendar, when one has "Jan. 15 AB died; Jan. 16 YZ died," that thereby Jan. 15, 16 become, not time-units, not chronological indicators of the sequence, but the numbers of the tombs wherein the people are buried?

He takes another table, p. 519, "Correlation of Zones and Hemeræ," and says that that shows the hemeræ to be parts of a zone. In a diary one shows the correlation between certain events and certain days of the week. Does that make the days of the week parts of the events? The making of a piece of railway embankment by the deposit of so much earth is set down as occupying Monday and Tuesday; does that make these two days parts of a railway embankment? According to Mr. Jukes-Browne it does. A hemera (that is, Monday) is part of a zone (that is, the railway embankment)—so he says of a geological diary.

Having come to this remarkable conclusion he declares it is my fault that people supposed hemera was used in a stratigraphical sense, in spite of my distinct assertions to the contrary. Now I do begin to see how it is that people use terms incorrectly—they do not test them by expressions of every-day life. But that is their fault, not mine.

S. S. BUCKMAN.

## OBITUARY.

ALFRED R. C. SELWYN, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.

BORN IN 1824.

DIED NOVEMBER, 1902.

By the death of this distinguished geologist, Canada has lost one of her leading men of science. Dr. Selwyn was associated with the Geological Survey of Great Britain from 1845 to 1852. In 1853 he was appointed by the Colonial Office Director of the Geological Survey of Victoria, Australia, a post which he held until 1869, when he retired owing to the Victorian Government refusing to vote the supplies necessary to carry on the work. Returning to England, on the retirement of Sir William Logan, Selwyn was at once appointed Director of the Canadian Geological Survey, a post which he held with distinction from 1869 to 1894, a period of 25 years, when he retired after 48 years of active and varied service, such as few men can lay claim to have seen, in three different and very distant quarters of the globe.

On his retirement he took up his residence in Vancouver, British Columbia, where for the past eight years he had enjoyed a well-earned leisure, dying at the age of 78 years. His life, accompanied by an excellent portrait, appeared in the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* for February, 1899 (Dec. IV, Vol. VI, pp. 49–55, Pl. II). (See also *Daily Chronicle*, November 8th, 1902.)

H. W.

<sup>1</sup> Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., vol. xlix, facing p. 514.