glorious music—should fall down and worship the kettle-drum and fiddle-stick.—[Taken in part from *Pall Mall Gazette*, Oct. 26, 1866].

In the February Number of this MAGAZINE, Professor Huxley will describe a new Saurian *Acanthophilis horridus* from the Chalk-marl. It is allied to *Scelidosaurus*, *Hylæosaurus*, and *Polacanthus*.—R.E.

OBITUARY.

We have to deplore the untimely loss of a young and most promising palæontologist, HENRY ADRIAN WYATT-EDGELL, who died of diptheria, at Belfast, Nov. 6, 1866, aged 19. He had become during the last few years well known to collectors and students of the older fossils, and his talents and zeal bade fair to place him in a very prominent position in geological circles, when the results of his close study should be given to the world. He had not yet published more than a paper or two, one of which will be found in the present Number, at p. 14, and another in Vol. III. p. 160.[1] But his acumen and industry in this, his favourite pursuit, would assuredly have given him a high title to consideration had his young life been spared but a little longer.

Ensign Wyatt-Edgell was born May 17, 1847. He was the second son of the Rev. Edgell and the Hon. Henrietta Wyatt-Edgell of Stanford Hall, Leicestershire. At a very early age he was placed at the College of St. Louis, Paris, where before he was eleven years old he was honorably distinguished for classics; he acquired his first taste for geology from the teaching of Mr. Charles D'Orbigny. In 1858 he left the College of St. Louis, and afterwards passed three years at Eton, where he distinguished himself in mathematics, and completed his education at Sandhurst, entering second on the examination list. He obtained a commission without purchase in the 59th Regiment, from which he exchanged into the 13th. In the last six or seven years of his short life his whole leisure was given to the collection and study of the Silurian and Cambrian Fossils. In this wide and almost unoccupied field he had the friendly assistance of several fellow-students, and willingly devoted himself to this special group of rocks as most needing illustration. He visited every available locality; and his polished manners and winning address gave him ready access to every cabinet. The testimony of his friend, Mr. Salter, with whom he studied a good deal, is, that for sound judgment of species and acute and critical observation of their characters he was quite exceptionally eminent. Nothing escaped his eye; and he was no less happy in the power of generalization in respect of generic groups and the relation of cognate forms. To this power he added the charm of a classic taste, which rendered his correspondence and descriptions remarkably correct and clear—no mean gift, in these days of slovenly diagnoses. Several fossils will be found to bear his name: e.g. *Homalonotus Edgelli*, etc.; and

[1] See also a paper by him on the characteristic fossils of the Arenig group, and its distinction from the Llandeilo, in Geol. and Nat. Hist. Rep. for July, 1866.

many new species, determined by himself, exist in his cabinet. A paper on "The Division of the Upper Llandeilo Rocks by their Fossils into an Upper and Lower Group," was read by him in 1865 before the Geologists' Association, and will be found in their proceedings. Another on the Fossils of the Llandovery Rocks, and a fasciculus of new species from his cabinet, were both in progress when he left London for military duty in Ireland. The packages sent home from thence, to be worked up in the leisure which, alas! never came, testify his devotion to his favorite pursuit to the end. He will not easily be forgotten by those who knew him, and the loss to our science is, indeed, a heavy one.

Alexander Bryson.—Alexander, eldest son of Robert Bryson, was born at Edinburgh on the 14th October, 1816. He received his early education at the High School, and being destined to pursue the same occupation as his father, was apprenticed to a watchmaker at Musselburgh. On the expiration of his apprenticeship, he went to London for a time to obtain a further knowledge of the details of clock and watch making, and on his return to Edinbugh entered with his brother Robert into a partnership, which continued up to the time of his death. But, conjoined with his mere business aptitude and qualifications, was a strong taste for scientific inquiry and pursuits, which led him, on returning from London, to enter as a student at the University—the Chemistry and Natural Philosophy classes of Professors Hope and Forbes. At the School of Arts, in the foundation of which his father, along with Leonard Horner, had taken a very active part, he was for some years a constant attender, and frequently expressed himself as greatly indebted to that institution for the opportunities of scientific improvement it had given him. Mr. Bryson took an interest in the physical sciences generally, but he devoted himself chiefly to the departments of mineralogy and geology. Owing to a community of pursuits, a friendship early in his life sprung up between him and the late Mr. Nicol, the inventor of the well-known prism which bears his name, and who left him not only a fine library and collection of minerals, but made him heir to his property. With the distinguished naturalist, the late Dr. Fleming, he was on terms of great intimacy. For many years they made geological excursions together. In our scientific societies, or elsewhere, no more strenuous defender of the opinions of that eminent man was found than Alexander Bryson, and in the 22nd volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society at Edinburgh, a discriminating memoir of Dr. Fleming appears as the product of his pen. Mr. Bryson was also long on terms of friendship with the late Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, for many years the president of our Royal Society; and to the Transactions of that body he communicated a memoir of that distinguished astronomer and soldier. Few men, indeed, had so wide a range of friends and acquaintances as Mr. Bryson; his general attainments, his frankness of manner, and his unselfish and kindly disposition endeared him to all who knew him. Mr. Bryson was an active member of the principal

scientific societies of Edinburgh. He was proposed as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh by Sir T. Makdougall Brisbane, and was elected in 1858. He filled the presidential chair both of the Royal Physical Society and the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, and was also a Fellow of the Geological Society of London. To the proceedings of these various scientific bodies he was a not unfrequent contributor. His published papers are about thirty in number, and comprise articles on geology, mineralogy, and zoology. In 1864 he read to the Scottish Society of Arts an account of a new method of detecting the presence and position of icebergs at sea, which was considered of so much importance that the Hepburn Prize was awarded to it. In 1862 he made a trip to Iceland, and published a short description of his journey, one of the most interesting results of which was the determination of the fact that the temperature half way down the tube of the Great Geyser was 270° Fahr., whilst at the very bottom it was not more than 240° Fahr. He was elected a member of the Town Council, for Newington Ward, in 1861, which office he resigned on account of failing health, in November last. During that period he took an active part in the introduction of telegraphic communication between the various police stations in the city. His brother Councillors testified their opinion of his scientific abilities by appointing him last year one of the Curators for the election of professors in our University. In the spring of the present year, whilst engaged in making experiments to test the applicability of the employment of the electric light in the capture of fish, for which he obtained a patent, he contracted a severe cold, which was shortly followed by an attack of jaundice. He lingered on during the summer and autumn, gradually becoming weaker, when an attack of bronchitis supervened, which in his then debilitated condition rapidly proved fatal. He died on the morning of the 7th of December at his house, Hawkhill, near Edinburgh. On the evening of that day the Royal Physical Society held the first meeting of its ninety-sixth session. After the minutes were read and approved, the president expressed his regret at having to announce the death of Mr. Alexander Bryson, which had occurred that morning, and moved that the Society should immediately adjourn, as a mark of respect to his memory. Mr. Bryson had long been connected with and was one of the most active supporters of the Society. He had filled the office of president, and at the time of his death was a member of Council. The secretary was also instructed to communicate with the members of deceased's family, and to express the deep sorrow of the Society for his loss. The motion was agreed to, and the Society adjourned accordingly.

Senor Casiana di Prado, of Madrid, For. Mem. G. S., died at the close of 1866. He was Inspector-General of the Mines of Spain, and was zealously devoted to the elucidation of its gelogy. A full account of his principal work, "Descripcion fisica y geológica de la Provincia de Madrid" (1864), was given by Mr. Hamilton in his Presidential Address to the Geological Society of London in 1866.