

MARTIN SIMPSON.

BORN 20TH NOVEMBER, 1798. DIED 31ST DECEMBER, 1892.

THE death of Mr. SIMPSON, of Whitby, severs the remaining link with "Young and Bird," and takes us back to an age when geology was quite in its infancy. Mr. Simpson served his apprenticeship to a cabinet maker in Whitby, and afterwards entered as a student at Edinburgh University. In 1836 he became second master at Wakefield Grammar School, and frequently lectured on geology in that neighbourhood. His active geological life was almost entirely spent in his native district, and it may be said that for over half a century he investigated the rocks and collected the fossils of the Whitby area. Most of his wanderings were made on foot, and the results of his labours were published in his "Monograph of the Ammonites of the Yorkshire Lias" (1843); The Fossils of the Yorkshire Lias (1855); A Guide to the Geology of the Yorkshire Coast (1859); and the Geology of Whitby (1861). Acting as Honorary Curator of the Whitby Museum he became well-known to geologists from all parts of the world, and it was not through any want of labour on his part that the Museum (so full of types) did not take rank as one of the best in the kingdom. In 1860 the Council granted him the magnificent remuneration of £10 per annum, which he received till his death. Fortunately, however, a small farm which he possessed brought him in sufficient for his daily needs, but he was preeminently one who *laboured* for science, and for the credit of his town, *without reward*.

His familiar figure, and unvarying old-world courtesy, will long be remembered by those who had the fortune to come in contact with him, and though his work may have now passed out of date, the energy he displayed and the difficulties he had to contend with, must always demand our admiration and respect. C. D. S.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MALTESE CAVE-EXPLORATION.—Mr. JOHN H. COOKE, F.G.S., has just (Feb. 23) submitted his Report to the Royal Society of London, on the exploration of the Har-Dalam Cave, Malta. Mr. Cooke has been fortunate in adding a Bear (related to *Ursus ferax*), and the "Barbary Deer" (*Cervus elaphus*, var. *barbarus*) to the fauna of the Maltese caves. He also found the pigmy Hippopotamus (*H. Pentlandi*) in great abundance. This species is common in Sicily and adjacent lands. Man is represented from this cave by a single metacarpal bone, and by pottery of two distinct periods, of Phœnician and Punic origin. The antiquity of the cave and its deposits is proved by the fact that the cave is now 40 feet above the level of the gorge, whose flood-waters freely flowed into it in prehistoric times. At present only a tiny streamlet (dry, save in the rainy-season) flows through the gorge, incapable of performing any visible erosion, whereas the ancient stream carried large boulders along its course and piled them also (well water-worn and rounded) in abundance within the cavern, which is some 400 feet in length. Only one molar and part of a jaw and one humerus of *Elephas mairi* were found.