made in the tank. Mrs. Ayrton is explicit on this point. She says, and very truly, with reference to the tank, that "the sand has heaped itself up in the middle of the trough, having a contour *very unlike* sea-shore ripples." (Abstract, p. 4.)

The paddle experiment made the nearest approach to sea-shore conditions, but it is practically impossible to make oscillating waves of uniform period by hand, and a paddle is a most unsuitable instrument for the attempt.

Had Mrs. Ayrton read a paper on so novel a subject in the usual way there would have been a most valuable discussion on it, as there were members present of both the British Association Committees that have investigated ripple-mark, viz., that on "Waves and Currents in Estuaries" and that on "Terrestrial Surface Waves and Wave-like Surfaces."

In a letter to the Magazine in December, 1904, I pointed out that all that was needful was a conference between Mrs. Ayrton, Sir George Darwin, Prof. Osborne Reynolds, and Dr. Vaughan Cornish, and that a unanimous report might easily be arrived at. Since then, however, the Royal Society have authoritatively approved Mrs. Ayrton's views on the general subject of ripple-mark, and have thereby inferentially disapproved of the aforesaid eminent authorities.

I only wish Mrs. Ayrton could be prevailed upon to experiment with waves of regular period running on a beach. The original suggestion was made by the late Mr. William Froude, F.R.S. My own small experiments did little, but they showed how much could be done with suitable tanks and motors to reproduce marine phenomena.

A. R. HUNT.

April 10th, 1907.

## UINTACRINUS IN THE LONDON BASIN.

SIR,—It may interest your readers to know that I have at last found *Uintacrinus* in the London Basin, near Orpington. The specimens have been submitted to Mr. Sherborn, who writes: "I have no hesitation in identifying your specimens as *Uintacrinus*, because you send me well-preserved plates as well as large and small arm-ossicles. Hearty congratulations; you have worked hard enough for the discovery of this zone." I am now engaged in working out the area of the exposure. G. E. DIBLEY.

April 23rd, 1907.

## OBITUARY.

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JOHN FRANCIS WALKER, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.C.S.

WE deeply regret to record the death of our valued friend and fellow-worker in geology for so many years, John Francis Walker, who died rather suddenly at his residence, 45, Bootham, York, on 23rd May, aged 66. We hope to give a suitable notice of his work next month.