of those present at the conversazione who did not closely examine Mr. Warren's specimens may have gone away with an erroneous idea of the flaking which can be produced by pressing one stone upon another, it seems desirable that this matter should be made public and all misunderstanding about it removed.

J. Reid Moir.

12 St. Edmund's Road,
Ipswich.

HOME-MADE NATURAL EOLITHS, 'THE WARRENS.'

Sir,—At the London Geologists' Association Soirée, November 1, 1912, there was a most interesting display of the 'Warrens' as made by Mr. Hazzledine Warren, F.G.S. Mr. Warren's method seems to me a fallacious way to prove a natural origin for the Eolithic 'Cupid's bow' type, such as he showed on Friday night. Surely the proof, if any, is that they are 'Warrens' and nothing more. For, first, Mr. Warren selects a form of Eolith he deems as quite a natural one, the 'Cupid bow', and then sets to work to see how best he can produce this by a machine he has made. Second, he selects a suitable piece of flint and, further, two equal-sized pebbles, places them securely in position, and applies and so controls the pressure as to produce the best results to him. It seems to me quite impossible to compare any procedure of nature with all this carefully thought out and carefully controlled mechanical one. Nature, too, shows all her productions, and such as he might deem her successes and failures. Surely to be fair Mr. Warren should do the same. He, too, must be more successful now than he was. Let him, then, so improve his methods and his machine and make, say, palæoliths and neoliths. Would not this prove that nature made *these*? Mr. Reid Moir's show was the opposite, as he produced his home-made rostro-carinate forms, but sought to prove that *man* made those. Surely this seems far more logical. I see now that as photographs have been taken under water showing the hooked trout fighting with the angler, we may yet hope to see such taken under the sea, showing how water-driven stones really do their work upon each other. In the absence of any facts mere speculation seems useless.

F. J. Bennett.

Acacias, West Malling.
November 13, 1912.

OBITUARY.

RAMSAY H. TRAQUAIR, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. L. & E., F.G.S.

Born July 30, 1840. Died November 22, 1912.

It is with deep regret we record the death of our old and valued friend and fellow-worker in palæontology for so many years, Dr. R. H. Traquair, lately Keeper of the Natural History Collections

in the Museum of Science and Art,[1] Edinburgh, which occurred on November 22, 1912, at his residence, "The Bush," Colinton, Midlothian, in his 72nd year.

Early in life he took a keen interest in fossil fishes, his attention having been arrested by discovering a portion of a Palæoniscid fish in the Wardie Shales. In passing his medical course in the University of Edinburgh, where he studied under Professor Goodsir and Sir William Turner, he chose as the subject for his medical thesis the asymmetry of the flat fishes, for which he was awarded a gold medal.

In 1866 Traquair became Professor of Natural History in the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester; in 1867 Professor of Zoology in the Royal College of Science, Dublin; and in 1873 Keeper of the Natural History Collections in the Science and Art Museum, Edinburgh, a post which he held till his retirement in 1906.

At the Edinburgh Museum he had the charge of the collection of fossil fishes, and during thirty-three years he acquired a very fine series of fish-remains from the Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous rocks of Scotland.

His researches led to the entire revision of the classification and nomenclature of Agassiz and other early investigators, especially in the Palæoniscidæ and the Platysomidæ, Traquair's work being based on the morphological structure, not on the mere outline of the body or the configuration of the scales and teeth.

During his long career Dr. Traquair published upwards of 130 papers on zoological and palæontological subjects, chiefly on fossil fishes, which have mostly appeared in the volumes of the Palæontographical Society, the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the Royal Physical Society. Between 1871 and 1902 he also contributed about 30 papers to the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE. By means of the fish-remains he arranged the Carboniferous rocks of Scotland in two divisions, and on the same principle he established a triple classification of the Lower, Middle, and Upper Old Red Sandstone.

For several years he filled the office of Swiney Lecturer on Geology at the British Museum (Natural History), where he displayed his remarkable talent as a draughtsman on the blackboard. Much of his success in Ichthyology no doubt was the result of this graphic skill and accurate anatomical knowledge in drawing fossil fishes.

He was the recipient of many honours in recognition of his work. In 1881 he was elected an F.R.S. of London; the Lyell Medal was awarded him by the Geological Society in 1901, and a Royal Medal in 1907 by the Royal Society. His life and portrait appeared in the June Number of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for 1909 (pp. 241–50).

He was quite lately engaged on his final memoir on the Palæoniscidæ for the Palæontographical Society, and up to the very last of his life, even when his health had given way, he bravely continued his labours until the end.

His widow, two sons, and one daughter survive him.[2]

[1] Now known as the Royal Scottish Museum.

[2] In part from the *Scotsman*, November 23, 1912.