

The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Chairman, Dr. C. A. Cotton, F.G.S.; Vice-Chairman, Dr. J. Henderson; Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. K. Lomas; Committee, Messrs. Morgan, F.G.S., Ongley, Uttley, F.G.S., Holmes, and Dr. Thomson, F.G.S.

During the evening Dr. J. Allan Thomson read papers: (1) "On the so-called 'Drift Formation' of Hawera"; (2) "The Geology of the Middle Clarence Valley, between the Bluff and Herring River."—*New Zealand Times*, September 21, 1916.

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OBITUARY.

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CLEMENT REID, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., ETC.

BORN JULY 6, 1853.

DIED DECEMBER 10, 1916.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Clement Reid, late of H.M. Geological Survey, which took place at his residence, One Acre, Milford-on-Sea, on Sunday, December 10. He was buried at Milford on the following Wednesday. Mr. Reid was so deeply versed in all matters relating to the later Tertiary and more recent strata that all geologists interested in these deposits will feel that their science has lost a master and they a reliable co-worker. Only those who knew Mr. Reid intimately could appreciate his sterling abilities and intense devotion to his scientific work, characteristics in which he so much resembled his great-uncle Michael Faraday.

Mr. Clement Reid joined H.M. Geological Survey in 1874 and started work, under the able guidance of H. B. Woodward, in the South-West of England, but in 1876 was transferred to Norfolk, and there began, under the same genial leader, the detailed study of the Pliocene and Pleistocene deposits, including the "Forest Bed" and "Contorted Drifts", of the Norfolk coast. The name of Clement Reid has ever since been intimately connected with the study of these formations; indeed, in all matters relating to the "Norfolk Forest Bed" and the nearly associated strata he was regarded as the chief authority. His memoir on *The Geology of the Country around Cromer* (Explanation of Sheet 68 E.), together with the maps and sections, is a model of careful work, and exemplifies the close attention to minute details as well as the broad grasp of his subject which has ever characterized his scientific work.

Mr. Reid published numerous papers on geological subjects, many of which are of more than ordinary interest; but as an officer of H.M. Geological Survey his chief work was the preparation of maps and of explanatory memoirs, and for this purpose after leaving Norfolk he was engaged in later years in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset, Wilts, Cornwall, and the London area. It is therefore in the publications of the Survey that the bulk of Mr. Reid's work will be found, and these chiefly relating to Tertiary and more superficial deposits.

Whatever Mr. Reid undertook to do he did thoroughly. He was

always a most careful and untiring worker, and even his times of relaxation were devoted to some collateral aspect of his work. The palæontological side of his investigations always gained his close attention. Quite early in his career he made botany a special study. Certain seeds found in the "Forest Bed" needed determination, and he began, for comparison, to collect the seeds of wild plants, which seem at that time to have been strangely neglected, with the result that he became perhaps the first authority on the subject, and showed how much information regarding the climate of former times was to be obtained from fossil seeds. The painstaking work of himself and Mrs. Reid in the investigation of seeds laboriously washed out from certain deposits has resulted in the joint publication of memoirs which may be regarded as monumental ("The Fossil Flora of Tegelen-sur-Meuse," *Verhandl. d. Kon. Akad. v. Wetenschappen te Amsterdam*, 1907; "The Preglacial Fauna of Britain," *Journ. Linn. Soc. Botany*, 1908; *The Pliocene Floras of the Dutch-Prussian Border*, published by the Institute for the Geological Exploration of the Netherlands, The Hague, 1915). Mr. Reid's report upon the Pleistocene deposits at Hoxne was largely based upon the seeds found in the more peaty parts of these beds. An exceedingly interesting study of fossil Characæ was in progress by Mr. Reid at the time of his death in conjunction with Mr. J. Groves, but the results have only just begun to be published. This work seems to have been initiated by the examination of silicified slabs of Purbeck rock showing beautifully preserved sections of Chara stems, which led Mr. Reid to try artificial weathering by weak acid on some impure limestones, and this led to important discoveries in regard to anomalous structures in some of these fossils (see *Proc. Roy. Soc., B*, vol. lxxxix, p. 252, 1916). More recently, also in co-operation with Mr. J. Groves, the Chara seeds from the Headon Beds, near his home at Milford, were investigated, and a most important paper on the subject was read before the Geological Society only a week or so ago, and will, we hope, be published before long.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Clement Reid was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1875, was awarded the Murchison Geological Fund in 1886, and the Bigsby Gold Medal in 1897. He served for two periods on their Council, and was Vice-President in 1913-16. He was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1888, and served two periods on the Council. In 1899 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. The Royal Geological Society of Cornwall awarded him the Bolitho Gold Medal in 1911.

Mr. Reid, having joined H.M. Geological Survey in 1874, was advanced to the post of "Geologist" in 1894, became "District Geologist" in 1901, and retired in January, 1913. Mr. Reid married Miss E. M. Wynne Edwards in 1897, and upon his retirement went to live at his new residence at Milford-on-Sea, where, after only three short years, he passed peacefully away in the closing month of the year 1916.

<sup>1</sup> See Reports and Proc. Geol. Soc. Lond., *ante*, p. 42.