

way connected with, the former position of the main, north-east to south-west escarpment of the Chalk.

It must be admitted that in dealing with the origin of the Southern English rivers Mr. Straban shows generally a fine disregard for the principles of drainage development. H. C. OSBORNE WHITE.

WARGRAVE, BERKS.

May 21, 1902.

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OBITUARY.

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WILLIAM HENRY PENNING, F.G.S.

BORN MARCH 9, 1838.

DIED APRIL 20, 1902.

MR. PENNING, who joined the Geological Survey in 1867, had in previous years qualified as an engineer under the late C. H. Gregory. During his official service he was engaged in the survey of portions of Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and Lincolnshire, and he was joint author with Mr. Whitaker and others of "The Geology of the North-Western Part of Essex, etc." (1878), and with Mr. Jukes-Browne of "The Geology of the Neighbourhood of Cambridge" (1881). He also contributed to "The Geology of the Country around Lincoln" (1888), by Mr. Ussher and others, the memoir being published after he had retired from the Geological Survey in 1882 through ill-health. On this account he spent some time in South Africa, and, regaining health, he was enabled to communicate to the Geological Society of London papers on the high-level coalfields of South Africa, on the goldfields of Lydenburg and De Kaap, and on the geology of the Southern Transvaal. A previous communication by him dealt with the physical geology of East Anglia during the Glacial Period. Mr. Penning was author of a "Text-Book of Field Geology" (1876, second edition 1879) and of "Engineering Geology" (1880).

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JOHN CLAVELL MANSEL-PLYDELL, F.L.S., F.G.S.

BORN 1817.

DIED MAY 3, 1902.

IN the death of Mr. Mansel-Pleydell, of Whatcombe, Dorset, geological science has lost an energetic and enthusiastic worker, one who in the widest sense was a naturalist, for he was intimately acquainted with the plants, the mollusca, and the birds of his native county, and had published separate volumes on these subjects. The antiquities of Dorset had likewise engaged his attention, while as a Magistrate, as a member of the County Council, and as High Sheriff (in 1875) he had rendered distinguished local services. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and on the death of his father in 1863 he succeeded to the family estates, which included land in the Isle of Purbeck. Here he had fine opportunities for geological research, and the Kimeridge Clay in particular yielded to him many saurian remains, some of which were described by Owen and J. W. Hulke. In 1873 he contributed to the GEOLOGICAL

MAGAZINE a "Brief Memoir on the Geology of Dorset." Two years later he was the chief founder, and afterwards President, of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club, to the Proceedings of which from 1877 onwards he contributed numerous papers. In one of these he called attention to the interesting discovery of remains of *Elephas meridionalis* at Dewlish. Although he had reached the ripe age of 84 his keen interest in science was maintained to the end, and his loss will be long and widely deplored in the county and elsewhere by all who had the privilege of his acquaintance.

Mr. Mansel-Pleydell may be regarded as almost the last of the race of country gentlemen of high social position who took any deep interest in geology. For, although he was strongly imbued with a love of natural history generally, and, in fact, was what we might call 'an all-round man,' yet he always held geology in especial favour. We perceive this in the originating of the Dorset Field Club, which was founded by three Fellows of the Geological Society, viz., himself, Professor Buckman, and the Rev. H. H. Wood, rector of Holwell. While Buckman was elected secretary and Wood treasurer, Mansel-Pleydell was made president, and continued to occupy that position until his death. During the twenty-seven years of its existence the President's high reputation and his continuous work added largely to the usefulness of the Field Club, and his influence has helped to preserve it from becoming a mere archaeological society—a fate which is likely to befall so many of these county associations in the near future. The Dorset County Museum likewise has been greatly indebted to Mr. Mansel-Pleydell, for during a long course of years he has enriched almost every department, and more especially that of palæontology. It is here that his most important 'finds' have been deposited.

We must regard it as a matter for regret that Mr. Mansel-Pleydell's efforts in the cause of geological science were not more generally known, so that probably few persons unconnected with Dorset have any idea of the range of his knowledge in this direction. To this circumstance we may attribute the fact that he never obtained from the Council of the Geological Society any recognition of his services in the cause of geology, although it had no more enthusiastic devotee than the late President of the Dorset Field Club. He was one of those extraordinary men who unite the enthusiasm of youth with the mature judgment of old age, and it may be recorded of him that he 'died in harness' in his effort to attend the meeting at Dorchester, where it had been his intention to deliver his annual address.

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THE HUGH MILLER CENTENARY.—We draw the attention of our readers to the very interesting proposal (see p. 4 of Cover) to keep alive, by means of a Memorial Institute in Cromarty, the memory of one of Scotland's most worthy sons and geologists.