

melted matter overcoming the resistance of the rocks above to force a passage to the surface; consequently no eruption follows, or in Mr. Malet's words, "an earthquake is an uncompleted effort to establish a volcano."

A. COLVIN, F.G.S.

NEW UNIVERSITY CLUB, ST. JAMES'S STREET, S.W.,
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MISCELLANEOUS.

ON THE DERIVATION OF THE WORD "SARSEN."—It was supposed by Dr. Stukeley that the word Sarsen came to us from the Phœnicians, and other writers since his time have adopted it as such; but the greatest authority of the present day confutes the opinion, and states "that no word in the English language is of Phœnician origin." If so, we must inquire what other language will assist us. In the Anglo-Saxon, *ses* is a rock or stone; *sessi*, a settle or seat; *sesan* or *sesen*, rocks. The *e* in *sesan* is without accent, and sounded like *e* in *there*, *ai* in *fair*, or as *après* Fr. The word Sarsen is pronounced by the country people *sāsen*, omitting the *r*; so that, perhaps, the word Sarsen is no other than the Anglo-Saxon *Sesan*, "rocks," and correctly sounded by the Wiltshire descendants of our Saxon forefathers, who still retain many other words of the same origin in great purity; for, as Dean Trench has observed, "they have not gone from us, but we from them."

R. F.

OLDEST BRITISH STARFISH.—Mr. Henry Hicks, F.G.S., F.R.C.S., has called my attention to an important omission made in my list of Palæozoic starfishes printed in the last number of this Magazine, page 7. I find I omitted from that list the oldest known British starfish, the *Palasterina Ramseyensis*, a new species, described by Dr. Hicks in the Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc. Lond. 1872, vol. xxix. p. 51, pl. iv. figs. 21–23, from the Tremadoc rocks of Ramsey Island. The specimen was discovered by Mr. Lightbody, of Ludlow. Mr. Hicks mentions that Dr. Otto Torell and Mr. Linnarson had described forms of starfish which had been found in Sweden, in rocks supposed to be of the age of the Harlech group of Great Britain. Another Palæozoic form has also been figured and described by Mr. W. Hellier Baily, F.L.S., F.G.S., in the publications of the Geological Survey of Ireland, to which my attention has been called by Prof. Harkness, F.R.S., of Queen's College, Cork.—H. W.

OBITUARY.

PROF. A. E. REUSS, Vienna.—It is with deep regret we record the death of an able Austrian palæontologist. Prof. Reuss was a Foreign Correspondent of the Geological Society of London, and author of many papers on the Foraminifera, Crustacea, etc. We hope to give a longer notice of Prof. Reuss next month.