

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-PLEYDELL, 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