not deep, and runs over a bed of stones, mostly small boulders of Trap, from three to six or eight inches in diameter. Living examples have long been known from the River Nile, and there are also some specimens in the British Museum having the locality of Natal attached to them; but I believe these are the first that have been found in Cape Colony. Between Natal and Cape Colony are the Drachenberg and other ranges of mountains, yet this species of *Cyrena* seems to be the same from both localities. I am expecting these specimens in a case which was packed before I left South Africa. In England this species is abundant, though extinct in many of our brick-clays, associated with remains of the Elephant, Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, etc.; and in South Africa the same genera of animals still exist with this little shell, although during the last twenty years the larger animals are driven further up the country, and but seldom appear in these haunts. About the time, however, that I was in Hope Town two Hippopotami were reported in the Great Orange River near Hope Town, and many persons went out after them, but with no success, although I believe some shots were fired, but the tracks of the animals were visible, and were said to be those of an adult and young animal.—James R. Gregory.

PETROLOGY AND LITHOLOGY.

Sir.—In the January number of the Quarterly Journal of Science, the reviewer of the progress of Mineralogy during the last quarter says, while noticing new works on Petrology—"Probably it would be difficult to point to any branch of natural science which at the present time occupies a more unsatisfactory position in this country than that science which, according as it is pursued in the field or in the cabinet has been variously designated Petrology or Lithology, in other words, *the study of rocks, as distinguished from that of minerals.* No one can gainsay the first part of this quotation, as without doubt books in the English language on both Lithology and Petrology, especially the latter, are sadly required, the only work at all approaching to the latter science being Lawrence's translation of Cotta, and any one who has studied it, must see how little the true science of Petrology has been regarded in the compilation of that book. But to return to the quotation—the latter part (now printed in italics) seems to be highly objectional, as in its present form it can scarcely fail to mislead students into imagining that Petrology is simply the study of rocks in any form, while Lithology is the study of minerals; when in reality the former is confined to the study of *rocks in mass*, and the latter to *pieces of rock*; by which means a rock may lithologically belong to one class, and petrologically to another. As for instance many of Cotta's quartziferous porphyries are lithologically granites, as they contain quartz, felspar and mica, while petrologically they are Felstones. A geologist divides rocks petrologically or into their *natural divisions*, and a mineralogist lithologically, as they wish to make a multiplicity of "distinct varieties." The difference between Petrology and Lithology has been fully ex-

plained by Mr. Forbes in a recent number of the Popular Science Review, and previously by Professor Jukes in his Manual. The reviewer in the Quarterly Journal of Science, by the context, would seem to be quite aware of the proper difference between Lithology and Petrology, my only excuse, therefore, for occupying any of your space is the vague way he expresses himself, which undoubtedly must mislead all young geologists. G. H. KINAHAN.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF IRELAND,
RECESS, CONNEMARA.

THE FETISH WORSHIP OF FOSSILS.

SIR,—The subject-matter of my letter, as indicated by the above heading, has upon various occasions pressed itself on my notice during my visits to collections belonging to private individuals, but more especially to soi-disant scientific persons, in various parts of England; and I think that a ventilation of it may do good by calling attention to a reform which is much needed.

First of all, I will describe what I have seen in some of the "Arcanas of Science." Imagine a series of glass-cases and drawers crammed with specimens augmented in number in a *duplicate* ratio, guiltless of labels, piled one on another, "in confusion worse confounded," suggestive alike of the interior of a *marine* store, and of an attempt to give a practical illustration of the probable scheme of Creation according to the Mosaic account. These collections belong to Fossilists whose ignorance of Palæontology reminds one of the Naturalists of the old school, whom the late E. Forbes used to describe as examining animals as though they were merely skins filled with straw, and whose scientific acumen displays itself in estimating the worth of a specimen by its *uniqueness*. The "minatus amor natendi" is strong in the minds of these worthies, and to part with any of their duplicates would be in their opinion to run the risk of losing a future chance of immortalizing themselves as the fortunate possessors of some new and *unique* species.

It is probable that I may have cast upon me the dregs of the "odium theologicum" which was poured out from the "phials of wrath" with such remarkable success during the late election; but if I can procure for some neglected pre-Adamite relic "a *local* habitation and a *name*" in some county museum, which would otherwise be fated in all probability to point a moral and adorn a grotto in a country village, I shall consider myself amply recompensed.

Example being better than precept, let me refer to the munificent gift of fossils lately made to the Norwich Museum by one of your reverend contributors. PHILO-TAXIS.

BŒOTIA TRANS-AVONIENSIS, *January*, 1869.

OBITUARY.

GEORGE VICTOR DU NOYER.—On the third day of January, at Antrim, where he was engaged superintending the Geological Survey of the North of Ireland, died George Victor Du Noyer, M.R.I.A.,