

forming a projecting lip of land. At this point it is transversely cut through by deep gulleys, excavated by several little rills of water. Further on it again becomes a bank, and sweeps round in a majestic curve past Abbotsbury to Portland. Its independence of the minor configuration of the coast lying between Burton Cliff and Portland is very remarkable. The seaward slope, whether bank or beach, is in a continuous curve from its two extremes. The Fleet is only the natural consequence of the barriers built on the low lands.

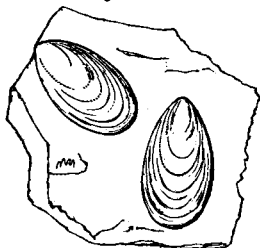
BLUNDELSANDS,

November 17th, 1873.

T. MELLARD READE, C.E.

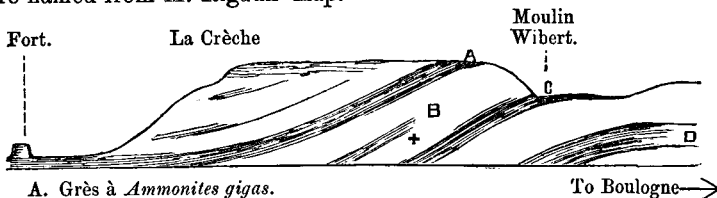
DISCOVERY OF *LINGULA OVALIS* IN THE KIMMERIDGE CLAY AT BOULOGNE-SUR-MER.

SIR,—Whilst on a short geological tour abroad early in September, I was fortunate enough to discover a *Lingula* in the Cliffs near Boulogne; and on my return home, I gave it to T. Davidson, Esq., F.R.S. He sent information of it to MM. Rigaux and de Loriol (who are publishing a work on the Boulogne fossils), and they both say it has never been discovered (or recorded) before, in the Kimmeridge Clay of Boulogne; though those cliffs have been searched for years, by French, English, and other geologists! The shell in question, *Lingula ovalis*, occurred in a block of shale, and was a beautiful specimen, quite perfect when I first found it, but it has got damaged since. Mr. Davidson has kindly drawn the following figure for me:



*Lingula ovalis*, Sow., Kimmeridge Clay, Boulogne-sur-mer.

I also give a rough sketch (from memory) of the place where I found it, for the benefit of geological visitors to Boulogne—the strata are named from M. Rigaux' map.



A. Grès à *Ammonites gigas*.

B. Schistes à *Thracia depressa*.

C. Grès à *Pygurus*.

D. Calcaire à *Arca longirostris*.

\* Place where I found the *Lingula*: in the Bay a few hundred yards south of La Crèche point.

It is not a little singular that within a fortnight after this discovery, I also found the same shell in the same formation in a core from the

Sub-Wealden boring, which I gave to Professor Phillips at Bradford, and which enabled him to report in *Nature* of Oct. 9th, that the boring was in Kimmeridge Clay.<sup>1</sup> This shell is characteristic of that formation at Shotover Hill, near Oxford, and at Ely, near Cambridge, and Mr. Davidson tells me that the Boulogne specimen is the same size as those from the above-named places, viz. about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in length, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in breadth, but the "sub-Wealden" *Lingula* is remarkable for being only about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in length.

I have since found two or three other specimens, and they are all of the same diminutive size: it may possibly be that they are young ones.

I hope soon to hear of some more good specimens turning up both from the boring and the Boulogne Cliffs.

ST. LEONARDS, Nov. 3, 1873.

JOHN E. H. PEYTON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have found the following additional fossils from the Sub-Wealden boring; depth about 300 feet:—a *Patella latissima*, an *Ostræa*, a *Pecten*, and a *Modiola*. They were shown to some of the Committee in Jermyn Street, and pronounced to be Kimmeridge Clay fossils; thus confirming Prof. Phillips's announcement in *Nature*, alluded to above.

Nov. 21.

J. E. H. P.

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### OBITUARY.

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ALBANY HANCOCK.—Zoologists have seldom had to mourn a greater loss than that which they have sustained by the death of Albany Hancock; and, as is so often the case when a scientific man of the first rank leaves this life, one subdivision of the sciences is not alone affected by it. Palæontology has also lost in Mr. Hancock an earnest and clear-sighted worker, and may be said to have reaped almost the last fruits of his labours. It is as a palæontologist that he must be commemorated here, and a glance at the accompanying list of his papers on ancient forms will show that the range of his knowledge as such gave him an indisputable right to the title.

Mr. Hancock was born in Newcastle in 1806, and died there on the 24th of last October. His life was, in the ordinary sense of the term, singularly uneventful. Scarcely ever did he leave his birth-place, which, with the dales and fells in its neighbourhood, he loved as north countrymen can, *never* did he forsake his pure naturalist's work. Each year of his manhood was marked by the discovery, accurate observation, and ever modest publication of new and important facts in Biology. His work speaks for itself; but the spirit in which he worked, his intense love of Nature for her own sake, his unaffected shrinking from honours which were forced upon him, his readiness to impart his knowledge or to give all help to the humblest beginner who was willing to work, his contempt of the so-called *popular* science of blatant sciolists, his life-long friendships,—all these must not pass away unrecorded. They cannot pass away unremembered by any one who knew him.

By Albany Hancock's death the small but strong circle of natur-

<sup>1</sup> See also letter from Prof. Phillips in *GEOL. MAG.* for November, p. 527.