

EVAPORATION AND SUBLIMATION.

SIR,—As long ago as September, 1900, I observe that the writer who reviewed my book on “The Scientific Study of Scenery” in this Magazine criticizes my use of the term *sublimation*.

He says: “In alluding to the evaporation of snow and camphor the process is referred to as ‘sublimation.’ In Watt’s Dictionary of Chemistry sublimate is defined as ‘a body obtained in the solid state by the cooling of its vapour.’”

Nevertheless, I believe that I use the term correctly, and in support of this assertion let me further quote Watt’s Dictionary (1894 edition, vol. iv, p. 524). Sublimation is there defined as “The passage of a solid body, when heated, to the state of vapour without melting.”

I take this opportunity of thanking the writer for the appreciative notice, which contains many suggestions which I should gladly utilize, if a second edition of my book should be called for.

J. E. MARR.

CAMBRIDGE.

MALAY PENINSULA LIMESTONE.

SIR,—Since the publication of my paper in last month’s *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*,¹ where I compiled some notes on the geology of the Malay Peninsula, and took occasion to remark that in the absence of fossils it was impossible to correlate the limestones of that country with any definite horizon, some further samples of the same rock have been submitted to my notice by Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S.

This new material was collected a few years back by the late Mr. H. M. Becher, at Gua Sai, Penjom, Pahang, and is of precisely similar appearance to the paler-coloured limestones obtained by Mr. R. M. W. Swan from the River Tui District, which he found associated with those of a dark variety referred to in my paper.

The ‘Becher’ specimens are important from the fact that they exhibit organic structures, a feature pointed out by Dr. G. J. Hinde, F.R.S., on a manuscript label dated January 7th, 1899, who thus describes them:—“Very fine-grained bluish limestones. The only organisms recognizable are Crinoidal stem-joints. There are traces of other organisms with which the rock seems to have been filled originally, but they are now nearly obliterated and are not determinable.”

This report, however, leaves us still without a clue as to the age of the limestone, and we shall require more accurate palæontological evidence before that desirable point can be permanently settled. In the meantime mention may be made of the presence of an obscure Crinoidal fragment on one of the weathered surfaces of this rock,

¹ “Notes on Literature bearing upon the Geology of the Malay Peninsula; with an account of a Neolithic Implement from that country”: *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, 1901, pp. 128–134.

exhibiting a portion of the stem with fragmentary brachial extensions, the whole organism covering a space of nearly three inches in length. My colleague, Dr. F. A. Bather, has kindly examined the specimen, but without any satisfactory result, on account of its poor preservation; he is, however, inclined to regard it as of Palæozoic age. Further efforts should now be made to obtain more suitable fossils from these interesting limestones of the Malay Peninsula, so that their geological age may be finally determined.

R. BULLEN NEWTON.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY).
March 19, 1901.

OBITUARY.

DR. GEORGE MERCER DAWSON,
C.M.G., LL.D., Assoc. R.S.M., F.R.S., F.G.S., F.R.S. CANADA,
DIRECTOR OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA.

BORN AUGUST 2, 1849.

DIED MARCH 2, 1901.

THIS eminent geologist, whose portrait and life we published in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for May, 1897, pp. 193–195, died at Ottawa, after an illness of only two days, at the early age of 51 years, sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends.

Dr. Dawson was the son of Sir William Dawson, F.R.S., for many years Principal of McGill College, Montreal; and was, since 1875, one of the staff of the Geological Survey of Canada, of which he speedily became Assistant-Director, and in 1894 Director. He was educated at McGill College, Montreal, and at the Royal School of Mines, London. Here he obtained the Duke of Cornwall's Scholarship, and the Edward Forbes medal and prize. He was, in 1873, on the North American Boundary Commission. On the Geological Survey he did much personal work in British Columbia and the North-West Territory, covering in his mapping many thousand miles of area. Dr. Dawson was one of the Commissioners for the Behring Sea Arbitration, spending the Summer of 1892 inquiring into the conditions and facts of seal-life, and his services were of the greatest value. He received the thanks of the Governor-General-in-Council, and was made a C.M.G. He received the Bigsby Gold Medal from the Geological Society in 1891, and in 1890 the degree of LL.D. from Queen's University and from McGill University in 1891. In 1897 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for his work as a whole.

Canada may well be proud of Dr. G. M. Dawson as one of her most brilliant men of science, whose loss she will long deplore, nor will he fail to be remembered in this country also as a son of that great Motherland whose name can never die.
