

became the language desirable for scientists, and French was allowed to lapse. Being a pre-Darwinian myself I can read Daubrée with pleasure, but German is to me a sealed book scientifically.

The French writers on physical geology, such as Daubrée, Delesse, Fouqué, and Lévy, appeal greatly to the followers of the old-fashioned English methods of experiment and demonstration, with the avoidance of 'views', and when possible of 'theories'.

As readers of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE are, perhaps, too well aware, I pressed the two subjects of the permeation of rocks by fluids and of the critical temperature of liquids on them at every possible opportunity between the years 1892 and 1903, having in the year 1892 entirely renounced further original work, as being quite futile so long as the main principles were denied, and retiring entirely in 1904 when tacit opposition became too pronounced. I remain more and more convinced that since the waters first covered the earth no single agent has been more active in the processes of rock-metamorphism than the oceanic waters, charged as they are with soda, potash, magnesia, and lime.

A. R. HUNT.

TORQUAY.

December 31, 1912.

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## OBITUARY.

### ELLEN SOPHIA WOODWARD.

BORN AUGUST 7, 1836.

DIED JANUARY 10, 1913.

THE beloved wife of the Editor of this journal, and the compiler of a *Forty Years Index to the Geological Magazine, 1864-1903* (Dulau & Co.), passed peacefully away, after fifty-five years of happy married life, on January 10, 1913, at 13 Arundel Gardens, Notting Hill, W.

She took a keen and active interest in science, and greatly assisted Dr. Woodward in his geological and literary work, both in the British Museum and at home. She also accompanied him, for many years, to the meetings of the British Association and on visits to the Continent.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

RETIREMENT OF MR. CLEMENT REID, F.R.S., F.L.S., of the Geological Survey of England and Wales.

Mr. Clement Reid, District Geologist on the Geological Survey, retired from the public service on January 6, 1913. He joined the staff of the Survey in 1874, under Sir A. C. Ramsay, and has been actively engaged in field-work for more than thirty-eight years.

Mr. Clement Reid is distinguished for his knowledge of the Tertiary floras, and is the author of many papers and Survey memoirs, including the *Origin of the British Flora*, 1899. He was awarded the "Biggsby Medal" in 1897, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1899.