

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SAIGA ANTELOPE IN BRITAIN.

SIR,—In the February Number of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, p. 94, is a notice of the discovery of the horns of the Saiga Antelope in the Thames Gravels at Twickenham. An earlier discovery was, however, made some years ago of this northern animal by the late Mr. R. W. Mylne. The specimens, which consisted of two horn-cores, were shown by him to me, and I submitted them to Mr. G. Busk, who pronounced them to belong to the Saiga Antelope. Unfortunately Mr. Mylne could not say where they came from. He thought from the neighbourhood of Bedford, and said he would make further inquiries. Those inquiries must have failed to elicit anything further, waiting for which has been the reason of this long delay in making the announcement—a reason now removed by the discovery of this new locality and the certainty of British origin.

JOSEPH PRESTWICH.

OBITUARY.

THE PALÆONTOLOGICAL WORK OF THE LATE WILLIAM DAVIES, F.G.S.

IN Mr. William Davies, whose death we regretted to have to record last month,¹ another link between the present school and the pioneers in British Vertebrate Palæontology has been severed. His official connexion with the British Museum placed him in the midst of a circle which included Mantell, Owen, Falconer, Agassiz, Egerton, Hugh Miller, and others, at a time when they were actively engaged in prosecuting those researches which form the basis of subsequent investigation. His mind, already imbued with the scientific method and deeply interested in the problems of Natural History, was soon permanently influenced by such associations; and the result was a keenness of perception in the determination of fragmentary remains of Vertebrata that has rarely been surpassed. In this manner Mr. Davies not only became a trusted ally and adviser of the old school of investigators, but also proved himself one of the best of helpers to the later generations that have succeeded. There are few workers of the last three decades in Vertebrate Palæontology who have not been indebted to Mr. Davies at some time for advice in difficult problems, and there are many who owe much to his kindly manner and the influence of his enthusiasm.

In his influence upon others, indeed, and in the remarkable skill with which he was able to preserve and mount even the most unpromising fossils, lay Mr. Davies' chief power as a factor in the progress of Palæontology. Wanting the literary training which it was difficult for any but the rich to obtain during his early years, he usually avoided the laborious task of writing an account of his work in a suitable form for publication. His discoveries and conclusions were always at the service of those who could make best use of them; and he was never in a happier mood than when

¹ See GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, March, 1891, p. 144.