THE NAMING OF NEW SPECIES.

SIR,—Has not Mr. Bather made a slip in the construction of the specific name for the new Crinoid described in your February Number? If he means to connect it with the county of Shropshire, as having been found on Salopian soil, surely the name should be *Merocrinus Salopicus*, just as we have *Megaceros Hibernicus*. *M. Salopiensis* would not, I think, be incorrect, but *M. Salopiæ* means that it is named after some fair nymph or lady of the name of Salopia.

I am glad that Mr. Bather preferred to associate the fossil with the district in which it was found rather than to pay its finder the doubtful compliment of naming it after him; and I would take the present opportunity of pointing out to those who feel compelled to associate a man's name with any new species they have to describe, that the adjectival form of a proper name is not only more correct, but is generally much more euphonious. Thus, if it is desired to commemorate someone of the name of Jones, *Jonesianus* is much better than *Jonesii*; and if the name were Bell, *Bellinus* would pass, while everyone would shrink from *Bellii* or *Belli*.

For my own part, I made a vow long ago that I would never attach a man's name to a new species, and I have kept it.

TEIGNMOUTH, *February 6th*, 1896. A. J. JUKES-BROWNE.

OBITUARY.

SEKIYA SEIKEI.

BORN IN 1855. DIED JANUARY 9TH, 1896.

ALL who are interested in volcanic and seismic phenomena will learn with regret that on January 9th, after an illness the first symptoms of which showed themselves in 1876, Professor S. Sekiya breathed his last. He was born in 1855, the year of the Ansei earthquake which devastated the Tokio plain. His attention was first directed to the serious study of earthquakes about 1880, and in 1886 he was appointed to the newly created Chair of Seismology in the Imperial University of Japan. Although he wrote much in Japanese, his publications in English, which for the most part appeared in the Science Journal of his own College and in the Transactions of the Seismological Society, in themselves testify to his industry and ability. The construction of a model to show the motion of an earth particle at the time of an earthquake is an indication of his originality and ingenuity. By his influence and persuasive power he did much towards the distribution of seismographs throughout his own country, and the extension of a seismic survey which at the time of his death boasted of no less than 968 stations at which earth shakings are recorded.

One thing in which he was interested, and in which he took part, were experiments to determine forms of construction most suitable for earthquake districts; and although he did not live to see the