

of Fossil Plants, which is not yet arranged; and also calls attention to the valuable series of type collections now in course of arrangement. Since the latter includes the collections of Dr. William Smith, Mr. S. V. Wood, J. and J. de Carle Sowerby, Mr. F. E. Edwards, and Dr. Thos. Davidson, their interest to all palæontologists must be of the greatest. The volume concludes with an excellent plan of the Palæontological Galleries and a well-arranged Index.

With the publication of this series of popular "Guides" for the nonscientific, and of the "Catalogues" for the scientist, the British Museum is rendering its unrivalled collections of the best possible advantage to all classes of visitors; and we beg to offer our hearty congratulations to Dr. Woodward and his able coadjutors on the successful completion of the present "Guide" to one of the most interesting branches of the whole collection.

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## REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

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### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

June 29th, 1886.—Osbert Salvin, Esq., F.R.S., V.Pres., in the chair.—The following communication was read:—

"Note on the Presence of a Columella (Epipterygoid, Parker) in the skull of *Ichthyosaurus*," by A. Smith Woodward, F.G.S. Communicated by the President.

In this paper, the author recorded the presence of a "columella" (epipterygoid) in the skulls of several Liassic Ichthyosaurs in the British Museum, and offered a brief account of the main features of the bone. The communication was suggested by Sir Richard Owen's statement ("Foss. Rept. Lias Form." p. 96) that he had observed no trace of the element in question in the British fossils; and the fact became still more worthy of note, since Prof. Cope (Proc. Amer. Assoc. Adv. Sci., vol. xix. p. 200) had already determined the presence of a columella in the skull of an American Ichthyosaur, and this circumstance was evidently overlooked by Sir Richard Owen. As pointed out by Prof. Cope, the bone is long and slender, with expanded extremities; and in the present communication the author showed that it was a distinct element, although a suture at its upper end in the American specimen appeared to be wanting. It was further remarked that the lower extremity of the Ichthyosaurian columella exhibits a striking resemblance to its homologue in *Sphenodon*, in the fact that the expansion shows two distinct articular facettes upon its inner aspect as is well seen in the specimen figured in Hawkins' "Book of the Great Sea-Dragons," pl. 19, fig. 1. In the living Rhynchocephalian genus, the articulation is contracted both with the pterygoid and an inward extension of the quadrate; in *Ichthyosaurus*, however, its nature cannot yet be determined, and, according to Prof. Seeley, there is no inwardly-directed process of the last-named bone.

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ERRATUM.—GEOL. MAG. August, 1886, p. 341, legend to woodcut, for "Interior," read *Exterior*.