identify minerals "at sight," and to test them by their hardness, lustre, form, and weight, represented the common extent of a collector's acquirements. But few understood the use of a goniometer, and not many could use the blowpipe, or correctly make an analysis of a mineral in this country. It was young James Tennant's lot to come to London at an early age, and enter the service of Mr. Mawe, the well-known Mineralogist, whose shop was a centre of resort for men of science. The stock-in-trade consisted of shells, minerals, marbles, etc., most of which Mr. Mawe obtained during his frequent travels. Here Tennant gained his first acquaintance with minerals. The classes of the Mechanics' Institution which he joined, and attendance on Faraday's lectures at the Royal Institution, improved his education, and enlarged his scientific knowledge of the specimens in which his master dealt. At Mr. Mawe's death, the management of the business devolved upon Tennant, who shortly after succeeded to it as proprietor.

He derived much advantage from the friendship of Sir Everard Home, whose knowledge of crystals enabled him to impart much valuable information to Tennant.

When King's College opened in the Strand, the Council desired a teacher in Mineralogy, and applied to Faraday for his nomination of a fit person; his recommendation was in favour of Mr. Tennant, who shortly after his appointment received the title of "Professor of Mineralogy." The new position opened a wider field of usefulness and of interesting study. His after-life was devoted to the diffusion of knowledge relating to mineralogy and geology, and many of the students who attended his lectures proved that he had not taught in vain by turning out to be useful collectors and observers of minerals abroad. He was one of the strong promoters and believers in the discoveries of Diamonds in South Africa, at a time when others denied their genuineness.

Professor Tennant was a very ardent advocate of technical education, and having seen the valuable application of the lathe in cutting both diamonds and other valuable stones and marbles, he induced the Turners' Company to promote the advancement of turning, by offering prizes annually for specimens in all branches of the turner's art. Great credit is due to Prof. Tennant for the revival of this branch of technical education as applied to ornamental work of all kinds and materials.

He was one of the founders of the Geologists' Association, of which body he was formerly President. He was also for several years a member of the Council of the Geological Society of London.

SIR PHILIP DE MALPAS GREY-EGERTON, BART., M.P., F.R.S., F.G.S.,

OF OULTON PARK, TARPORLEY, CHESHIRE.

BORN NOV. 13TH, 1806; DIED APRIL 5TH, 1881.

ANOTHER distinguished name has been erased by death from the list of Fellows of the Geological Society. Sir Philip Egerton was the eldest son of the Rev. Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, by his wife Rebecca, youngest daughter of the late Josias Dupré, Esq., of Wilton

Park, Bucks; he was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, graduating B.A. in 1828. Having studied geology under Conybeare and Buckland, together with the Earl of Enniskillen, he made a lengthened geological tour with that nobleman through Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. About this time he became acquainted with Professor L. Agassiz, at Neufchatel, and commenced the formation of a grand collection of Fossil Fishes, both from British and Foreign localities. A large number of the types of Agassiz's Monograph on the "Fossil Fishes of the Old Red Sandstone" (published in 1844) are to be found in the Enniskillen and Egerton Collections, as also of specimens described and figured in the Decades and Memoirs of the Geological Survey, the Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, etc. He entered Parliament in 1830 as Member for Chester, and he afterwards represented the Southern and Western Divisions of Cheshire since 1835.

He was senior elected Trustee of the British Museum, and one of the Original Trustees of the British Association, and of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, and a Member of the Senate of the University of London.

He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1829, and of the Royal Society in 1831, to the Proceedings of both which he has been a frequent contributor.

Having been almost always a Member of the Council of the former Society, an opportunity only occurred to award him the Wollaston Medal in 1873. The first Kingsley Medal was also presented to him in 1878, by the Chester Natural History Society, in recognition of his valuable services in promoting the objects of that Society.

During the long period which he served as a Member of Parliament, although not distinguished in debate, he was nevertheless one of the hardest workers in Committees of the House, and whether as a naturalist, or antiquary, a field-sportsman, or country gentleman, he was always thoroughly in earnest in all he undertook.

His career was an eminently useful and practical one, and his loss in the world of science, as well as of politics, will be keenly felt; but most severely by the circle of his most intimate friends who had grown to know and value him for his private character, and the noble example he set as a thorough and upright English gentleman.

He worthily did honour to the motto of his ancient house:—

"I trust not in arms but in virtue."

MISCELLANEOUS.

A DEEP COAL-MINE.—It is interesting to record a triumph of engineering skill and perseverance. On Saturday, March 5th, at the Ashton Moss Colliery, in Lancashire, the main seam of coal was cut at the depth of 2691 feet. This is the deepest pit in the United Kingdom, Rose Bridge Colliery, which was the deepest previous to this sinking, being only 2460 feet. The temperature in the Ashton Moss Colliery at 860 yards was 78° Fahr.—*Athenæum*, March 19.