

when at a much lower temperature, and charged with sediment—may have produced similar results in past times, as now, and may to a great extent explain the occurrence of marine organisms in a very abundant and unusually perfect state?—H. W.

Note.—Sir W. Denison has remarked (*Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. xviii. p. 453) that the great rains of the S.W. Monsoon periodically destroy millions of fish and other marine creatures off the coast of India. Severe frosts during low tides are highly destructive to the Littoral zone of sea-life, as noticed by Hugh Miller and others; and Volcanic emanations also destroy animals and plants far and wide in both deep and shallow seas.—EDIT. GEOL. MAG.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—A large part of the collections illustrative of building materials and construction, recently exhibited in the temporary iron building at South Kensington, has been removed to the South Arcades of the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens, where it will be again exhibited to the public, and the usual facilities for study and comparison afforded, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

HUGH FALCONER,* A.M., M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, AND FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—We have this month to record the death and to give a dim outline of the outer life of one of the first palæontologists of the day. Would that it were in our power to penetrate a little more deeply beneath the surface he showed to society! But, though regretting that we cannot give a more definite picture of his mind, we rejoice at being enabled to sketch, even thus faintly, some of the principal results it produced.

Hugh Falconer was born, on February 29, 1808, at Forres, near the banks of the Findhorn, in the North of Scotland. In the Grammar School of that town he commenced his education, and afterwards studied for four years at the University of Aberdeen, receiving in due course the degree of A.M. He then studied medicine and natural history for a similar term at the University of Edinburgh; his early taste for the latter subject being greatly stimulated by attendance on the lectures of Professors Jameson and Graham. He then received, in 1829, the degree of M.D., and obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Being immediately appointed an Assistant-Surgeon on the Bengal Establishment, but not having reached the required age of twenty-two, he employed the interval in botanical and geological studies; and this led the way to his first contribution to palæontology.

In the Museum of the Geological Society of London, Dr. Falconer was enabled to study some remains of fossil Mammalia from

* Many of the incidents contained in this sketch are taken from a very complete notice which appeared simultaneously in the 'Reader' and 'Athenæum,' for February 11, 1865.