

scheme for this was Mr. Hulke's, and he was Chairman of the Joint Laboratories Committee from its foundation. The work that has been done and is now doing there speaks sufficiently for the wisdom of the scheme. At the Royal Society, of which he was elected a Fellow in 1867, he served on the Council during 1879, 1880, 1888, and 1889; and was also a member of the Scientific Relief Committee. His communications to the Transactions of the Society were numerous, and the last of them was read before the Society on May 12th, 1892—"On the Shoulder-girdle in Ichthyosauria and Sauropterygia."

His strict devotion to duty was no doubt answerable for his death. He took no holiday during the past year, his time being too occupied to permit him to do so, and the incessant and acute strain was telling upon him at Christmas. This much he admitted. On the night of Thursday, Feb. 7th, a terribly bitter night, he was summoned to the hospital to operate upon a case of strangulated hernia, from which he did not return until 3.30 a.m. On the following day he had a little bronchitis, but did not keep his bed. Indeed, he operated on Saturday at the Middlesex Hospital on a case of cerebral abscess, and went to the wards again on Sunday (Feb. 10th) and Monday (Feb. 11th). But later in the day he had to recognize that he was seriously ill, and the bronchitis increasing, pneumonia supervened, and he died on Tuesday, Feb. 19th, about noon.

"His life was gentle; and the elements
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, This was a man!"

Shakespeare.

JAMES ADEY BIRDS, B.A., F.G.S.

BORN NOVEMBER 9TH, 1831.

DIED DECEMBER 15TH, 1894.

JAMES ADEY BIRDS was descended from an old Derbyshire family, the Birds of Locko, Stanton Hall, and Bakewell, Derbyshire. He was the son of the Rev. W. T. Birds, and was born November 9th, 1831, at Preston Rectory, Salop. He was educated at Rugby, and graduated at Christ Church, Oxford. He took a deep interest in geology, was a careful observer of geological facts, and communicated several papers to the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* between 1866 and 1881, notably on "A bed of Chalk-flints near Spa, Belgium" (1866), on the "Post-Pliocene formations of the Isle of Man" (1875), on the "Geology of the Channel Islands" (1878), "'Beekite' in the Channel Islands" (1879), "Foreign Pebbles on our South Coast" (1881), etc.

Mr. Birds was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1878. He was a good classical scholar and linguist, and prepared an English rendering of Goethe's "Faust" (published by Longmans in two volumes in 1880).

He formed an excellent geological collection, which he bequeathed to the borough of Derby, the chief town of the county where his ancestors had so long resided. He died at West Bournemouth, on December 15th, 1894, in his 64th year.