

curious variety of pitchy copper ore, probably Turgite, from Cornwall.—*Chemical News*, Feb. 16, 1866.

Fossils from the Diluvium of the Tiber.—M. de Verneuil has lately obtained a small series of fossil bones from the diluvium of the Tiber. They consist of teeth of a large hippopotamus (probably *H. major*), teeth of rhinoceros, wild boar, ox, horse, and deer. At Ponte Molle the bones are most abundant, but they are better preserved at Mont Sacré, in the diluvium of the Aniene.—*Bull. Soc. Géol. Fr.* vol. xxii. 1865, p. 521.

The Ossiferous Caverns of Belgium.—A report was recently presented to the Belgian Government by Monsieur Dupont, of Dinant, on the scientific explorations lately made in the caverns on the banks of the Lesse, to November 1865.¹

The cavern of Chaleux has, in particular, yielded a most abundant harvest of remains of pre-historic man. Besides great numbers of worked bones, there were found more than 30,000 cut flints, several cubic metres of bones of animals, including more than 900 teeth of horses; implements of reindeer horn of various forms, as arrow-heads, spatular and pointed instruments, and polishing tools. Pieces of fluor-spar, and numbers of fossil shells, from the “Calcaire grossier,” pierced with holes; some jet, and the teeth and a vertebra of a shark, have also been discovered, together with Ologiste (Hematite), iron-pyrites, and pieces of Fumay slate rudely carved.

The animals eaten included, besides the horse, the brown bear, chamois, wild goat, reindeer, fox, badger, hare, wild boar, and probably the water-rat, as remains of several hundreds of these animals were likewise found among the ashes and *débris* of the ancient hearth.

In the middle of the fire-place was also discovered the “fore-arm” (*sic*) of a mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*), which M. Dupont considers was placed there as a “fetish charm.”

After the discovery made by Messrs. Lartet and Christy of a drawing of a mammoth upon a flake of ivory, in the ossiferous cavern of La Madeleine,² we need no longer doubt that the Caverns of France and Belgium were contemporaries of the mammoth, and sometimes, though rarely, destroyed one by stratagem, or in the chase.

OBITUARY.

Prof. W. T. Brande.—We regret to notice the death of the veteran chemist, Prof. W. T. Brande, D.C.L., F.R.S. Besides numerous works on Chemistry, he published, in 1816, a descriptive catalogue of the British specimens deposited in the Geological Collection of the Royal Institution, and in 1817 the “Outlines of Geology,” being the substance of a course of lectures delivered at the Royal Institution in 1816; a second edition of this work was issued in 1829. He died on February 11th, aged 81. A new edition of his dictionary is now being re-edited.

¹ Extracted, in part, from the *Gloucester Journal*, December 30, 1865.

² See the *Geological Magazine*, vol. ii., p. 480.