I must now explain my use of the term Ungulata. Lamarck in his Philosophie zoölogique, of which the first edition was published in 1809, distinguished the mammalia into Exongulés, Amphibies, Ongulés, and Onguiculés. Of these, the Ongulés is a natural division which has been adopted by Cuvier, Owen (Odontography) and many other zoölogists, and has been current in zoölogical literature for half a century before it was applied by modern authors to a different and more restricted group (my Diplarthra), in opposition, as I believe, to the law of priority. In fact the distinction of the mammalia into Unguiculata, Ungulata, and Mutica was employed by Linnæus in the twelfth edition of the Systema Naturæ, about a century earlier than the term Ungulata as preferred by Mr. Lydekker.[1] And for placental gyrencephalous mammalia this classification is as natural as any one which has been proposed, and is the only one available for palæontologists. In concluding, I refer to another attempt at change of a long-standing and generally-accepted name by modern authors. I refer to the name Batrachia, which it is sought to replace by the term Amphibia. Although the latter is the better name, it has not the claim of priority by a half century at least. Although the early definitions were imperfect, the contents of the class were then the same as now. The division Batrachia, used by Lamarck and Cuvier, is uniformly employed in the herpetological literature of the last half century, except by a few German authors (*e.g.* Wagler), who combined them with the Reptilia in one division under the name Amphibia. Not only has the name Amphibia no claim on the ground of priority, but the diverse uses to which it has been put also render its use undesirable.

PHILADELPHIA, *Oct.* 30, 1885. E. D. COPE.

OBITUARY.

WALTER FLIGHT, D.Sc.(LOND.), F.R.S., &c.

BORN 21ST JANUARY, 1841; DIED 4TH NOVEMBER, 1885.

THE close of this year has witnessed the termination of another bright and promising life, ended all too soon for the hopes and expectations of his many friends.

Walter Flight was the son of William P. Flight, of Winchester, in which city he was born on the 21st January, 1841. He was sent, after a period of pupilage at home, to Queenwood College,

[1] There is one noteworthy exception to this argument, viz. where Mr. Lydekker remarks that "*Archænodon* appears to us to be a form not improbably connecting the bunodont ungulates like *Elotherium* (with which it has been classed) with the unguiculate mammals," etc. Now this proposition is in opposition to theoretical and actual mammalian phylogeny, as I have remarked in the American Naturalist, 1884, p. 718. It is impossible for any Artiodactyle mammal like *Elotherium* to have direct connection with an unguiculate. The genealogical line must pass backwards through a taxeopod line, and then downward into or through the bunotherian, to complete such a connection.

Hampshire, in the days when George Edmondson was head master, and Tyndall and Debus were the teachers of science.

From Queenwood he went to the University of Halle, where, in the Laboratory of Prof. Heintz, he specially applied himself to chemistry during the winter session of 1863–64.

During 1864 and 1865 he studied at the University of Heidelberg, where, in the Laboratories of the celebrated Professors Bunsen, Kopp, and Kirchhoff, he devoted himself earnestly to acquire that thorough knowledge of the various branches of theoretical and practical chemistry, and that marked facility for overcoming experimental difficulties which characterize the practised and careful worker. From Heidelberg Flight passed to the University of Berlin, where he remained until 1867, studying and working in Prof. Hofmann's Laboratory, and for a time filling the office of his Secretary and Chemical Assistant.

Returning to England in 1867, he graduated D.Sc. in the University of London, and in the following year was appointed by the Senate to the office of Assistant Examiner under Prof. Debus (his former teacher at Queenwood). On the 5th September, 1867, Dr. Flight was appointed an Assistant in the Mineralogical Department of the British Museum, and a Laboratory was fitted up for his use. Here, under the direction of Prof. Maskelyne, the Keeper of Mineralogy, he commenced a series of researches into the chemical composition of the mineral constituents of meteorites and the occluded gases they contained. Many of the methods by which he carried out these investigations were originated by him in the course of his researches, and displayed in a remarkable degree his skill and ingenuity in chemical manipulation.

He was shortly after this date appointed Examiner in Chemistry and Physics at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and in 1876 Examiner to the Royal Military Academy, Cheltenham.

For several years Dr. Flight served on the Luminous Meteors Committee of the British Association, to which he lent much valuable assistance.

Between the years 1864 and 1883 he was author of twenty-one original papers, embracing descriptions of the Cranbourne, Rowton, and Middlesborough Meteorites, which appeared in the Philosophical Transactions; and "A Chapter in the History of Meteorites," which appeared in a succession of twenty-three articles in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE in 1875, 1882, and 1883. He was also joint author or contributor of results to many other papers, chiefly with Professor Story-Maskelyne, F.R.S., on the Mineral Constituents of Meteorites, as the Busti, the Manegaum and the Breitenbach Meteorites, read before the Royal Society between 1870–71.

Dr. Flight was elected to the Royal Society, June 7th, 1883.

In 1884 he was seized by illness which prostrated his mental powers, and rendered it needful for him to resign his appointment in the British Museum in June last, and notwithstanding every care which medical skill or affection of friends could devise, he succumbed on 4th November, leaving a wife and three young children to deplore his early loss.