

his paper of 1876. Dr. Sorby, no doubt, showed that certain fluids are caught up during the consolidation of crystals, and I have confirmed that observation over and over again; but that established fact does not preclude the possibility of the same crystal being subsequently cracked, and a new, and perhaps an entirely different, set of fluids being introduced; and that possibly more than once.

General McMahon, in his reply, furnishes an example of the very statements which have so perplexed me; e.g., "The potential energy of water held in a fluid state by pressure must have been great." This was at above red heat. A few lines later we read, "I thought experts would understand that I had water in a gaseous state in my mind" (italics mine).

If, as General McMahon points out, Dr. Sorby proved certain inclusions to contain water, or rather salts dissolved in water, his more triumphant diagnosis was liquid carbonic acid; as he has himself observed—"people would scarcely believe that there were such things as fluid cavities in granite, and no one had imagined such a thing as liquid carbonic acid." If anyone convicts me of dissenting from Dr. Sorby's opinion on any subject on which he has all the known facts before him, I will say with the opossum, "Don't shoot, Colonel, I will come down."

I really am very sorry that my recent papers should have vexed either Professor Bonney or General McMahon. The untoward result was quite unforeseen, and shall not occur again.

A. R. HUNT.

TORQUAY, November 5, 1903.

OBITUARY.

THE REV. MAXWELL HENRY CLOSE, M.A.,

MEMB. R. I. ACAD., R.D.S., R.G.S.I., F.G.S.

BORN 1822.

DIED SEPTEMBER, 1903.

WE regret to announce the death of the Rev. Maxwell Henry Close, Treasurer of the Royal Irish Academy, at his residence, 38, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin. Mr. Close, who had attained the venerable age of 81 years, was, up till a very short time since, daily to be seen at the Academy's house in Dawson Street. With the passing of Mr. Close a familiar figure in Dublin life has disappeared, greatly to the regret of a large circle, who knew and esteemed him for his scholarly attainments and genial personality. The son of the late Mr. Henry S. Close, Newtown Park, county Dublin, Mr. Maxwell Close was born in 1822. At a comparatively early age he entered Dublin University, where he graduated in 1846. He received the Divinity Testimonium, and in 1847 the degree of Master of Arts. In 1847 he took holy orders, becoming a priest the following year, and went to reside in England as curate of All Saints, Northampton, until 1849, when he was inducted Rector of Shangton, Leicestershire. He resigned this position eight years later, and

became curate of Weltham in the same county until 1861. Returning to Ireland, he devoted himself almost entirely to scientific and literary pursuits. In 1867 he was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy, whose treasurer he became in 1878. A constant attendant at the stated meetings of the Academy, Mr. Close made some notable contributions to its literature, which were published in the Society's "Proceedings." Amongst the articles written by him may be mentioned his "Note on the Moon's Variation and Parallaxic Inequality," which appeared in 1891, and was followed in 1901 by a paper on "Hipparchus and the Precession of the Equinoxes," and "Remarks on a Cosmographical Tractate in the Irish Language in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy." In addition he published a small work on astronomy, of which he was a keen student. He was a member of the Committee of Polite Literature of the Academy, and also a member of the Council, while his connection with the Royal Dublin Society goes back to an early date. He became a Fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1874. He was a leading member of the Royal Geological Society of Ireland, Dublin, and served as President of that body in 1878, when the first meeting of the Society was held in connection with the Royal Dublin Society. He was a contributor to the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* for a number of years.—Principally taken from the *Dublin Evening Mail*, Sept. 15, 1903.

The following is a list of scientific papers by the Rev. Maxwell H. Close:—

- 1.—"On some Striated Surfaces in the Granite near Dublin" [1863]: *Dublin Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. x (1864), pp. 96-103.
- 2.—"Notes on the general Glaciation of the Rocks in the Neighbourhood of Dublin" [1864]: *Ireland Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. i (1867), pp. 3-12.
- 3.—"Notes on the general Glaciation of Ireland" [1866]: *Ireland Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. i (1867), pp. 207-242; *GEOL. MAG.*, Vol. IV (1867), pp. 234-235.
- 4.—"On some Peculiarities in the Phenomena of Glaciation as indicating the Nature of the Agent" [1866]: *Ireland Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. i (1867), pp. 287-288.
- 5.—"Archdeacon Pratt on M. Delaunay's Experiments on the Internal Fluidity of the Earth": *GEOL. MAG.*, Vol. VII (1870), p. 537.
- 6.—"On some Corries and their Rock-basins in Kerry" [1870]: *Ireland Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. ii (1871), pp. 236-249.
- 7.—"The elevated Shell-bearing Gravels near Dublin" [1873]: *GEOL. MAG.*, Dec. II, Vol. I (1874), pp. 193-197; *Ireland Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. iv (1877), pp. 36-40.
- 8.—"Concerning the Extent of Geological Time": *Brit. Assoc. Rep.* (1878), p. 548; *GEOL. MAG.*, Dec. II, Vol. V (1878), pp. 450-455.
- 9.—"The Physical Geology of the Neighbourhood of Dublin": *Dublin Soc. Sci. Proc.*, vol. i (1878), pp. 133-161; *Ireland Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. v (1880), pp. 49-77.
- 10.—Anniversary Address to the Royal Geological Society of Ireland [Feb. 18, 1878]: *Dublin Soc. Sci. Proc.*, vol. ii (1880), pp. 5-24; *Ireland Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. v (1880), pp. 1-20.
- 11.—Anniversary Address to the Royal Geological Society of Ireland [Feb. 17, 1879]: *Dublin Soc. Sci. Proc.*, vol. ii (1880), pp. 191-208; *Ireland Geol. Soc. Journ.*, vol. v (1880), pp. 132-149.
- 12.—"On the Definition of Force as the Cause of Motion, with some of the inconveniences connected therewith" [1882]: *Dublin Soc. Sci. Proc.*, vol. iii (1883), pp. 336-343.
- 13.—"On the meaning of 'Force'": *Phil. Mag.*, vol. xv (1883), pp. 248-251.