EXCURSION TO OXFORD, MAY 12TH AND 13TH, 1871.

Directors—Professor PHILLIPS, M.A., Hon. D.C.L., Oxon, F.R.S., &c., and J. P. EARWAKER, Esq.

The Members, at the head of whom were the President, the Rev. Thomas Wiltshire, M.A., F.G.S., &c., and Professor Morris, F.G.S., H.M.G.A., assembled at the beautiful new University Museum, and were received by Professor Phillips, who described the Museum, its arrangement and contents, in a most interesting and instructive lecture while conducting the visitors through the spacious halls of this noble memorial of Oxford's regard for Science.

There is a peculiar double arrangement of the Palæontological Collection by which the student may, with equal ease, make himself acquainted with the organisms derived from any one geological formation, or devote himself to the study of the fossil remains of a single class or order of the animal or vegetable kingdom. The Museum is not crowded, but contains good specimens of those species which are most typical or characteristic. Here, too, with the fossil remains of Saurians and Mammals, are the complete skeletons of analogous living genera, an arrangement most advantageous to the student. The unique collection of the remains of *Cetiosaurus* adds greatly to the value of the Oxford University Museum. A graphic description of the enormous bones of this genus was given by Professor Phillips, who, by a comparison with corresponding crocodilian bones, impressed his hearers with the vast size to which these huge creatures attained. The estimate made by the Professor was that the *Cetiosaurus* was fifty feet long and twelve feet in height, the femur being fully sixty four inches long, while the femur of a crocodile, nine feet long, with which it was contrasted, was no more than nine inches in length.

In the afternoon the party proceeded to Shotover Hill, examining by the way the excavations in the Oxford Clay near the City, and the exposures of the Coral Rag and the Kimmeridge Clay on the side of the hill. Near the top of Shotover, Portland Sands and a thin band of Portland Stone are seen, and above these beds, and forming the summit of the hill, are the "Iron Sands," which have been the subject of much dispute. These highly ferruginous beds were considered to be Lower Greensand, but the finding of a considerable number of fresh-water species of Mollusca without any

marine exuviae, has induced Professor Phillips to believe the "Iron Sands" to be of Wealden age. From these sands at the summit of the hill ochre has been obtained in large quantities.

In the evening the members were entertained at dinner by James Parker, Esq., F.G.S., who afterwards gave a *soirée*, and exhibited his very valuable collection of Reptilian Remains and other fossils from the neighbourhood of Oxford. These were described by Professors Phillips and Morris, and afforded great gratification to the visitors.

On the second day an early visit was paid to Merton College for the purpose of enabling the members to inspect the large collection of fossils which Mr. Earwaker, of that College, has brought together.

Subsequently the party started by carriage for Islip, Enslow Bridge, and Kidlington. At Islip, a fine section of the Forest Marble and Cornbrash with the usual fossils of these formations, is exposed; and an Ammonite, probably the first from the Cornbrash of this district, was found. The village of Islip is, however, interesting to geologists on other grounds, for here lies Buckland. Around the tomb of the great geologist, with his distinguished successor at their head, the party assembled. The memorial is of polished Aberdeen granite, and the inscription briefly records the fact that there lie the remains of Dr. Buckland, Rector of Islip, Dean of Westminster, and first Reader in Geology in the University of Oxford.

The quarries at Enslow Bridge, which have yielded a large number of the Saurian bones now in the University Museum, was then visited, and here the Members were highly gratified to find that during the morning a very fine skeleton of *Teleosaurus* had been found, and the head, taken out of the bed in which it had lain for untold ages, was exposed to view. This quarry is in the Great Oolite, the lower and uppermost strata of which in Oxfordshire yield remains of *Megalosaurus*, while in the middle beds we find *Teleosaurus*. A very remarkable bed of about twelve inches thick occurs a little above the *Teleosaurian* zone, crowded with *Terebratula maxillata* to the exclusion of every other species.

Several other sections of the Great Oolite, Forest Marble, and Cornbrash were examined, and the weather being very fine the drive through the beautiful country was much enjoyed, and the return to Oxford effected in time to allow of the Members taking their departure for London by the evening train.

An extended Report of an Excursion to Oxford in 1869, by JAMES THORNE, Esq., has been published by the Association.