EXCURSION TO WATFORD.

MAY 1ST, 1875.

Directors.—JOHN EVANS, Esq., F.R.S., President of the Geological and Watford Natural History Societies; Professor MORRIS, F.G.S.; and JOHN HOPKINSON, Esq. F.G.S., Hon. Sec. to the Watford Natural History Society.

In consequence of very unfavourable weather, the published programme of this excursion (which had been arranged in conjunction with the Watford Natural History Society) was abandoned, and a shorter route decided upon. After assembling at Holly Bank, the residence of Mr. John Hopkinson, the party, under that gentleman's guidance, crossed the country to the east of Watford, through which runs the Colne, in a Chalk valley with an alluvium bottom and slopes covered in places with gravel. On the further side of this valley, Professor Morris, illustrating his remarks by specimens taken from the spot, described the gravel as Drift re-arranged and re-distributed by fluvatile action, since not merely rolled portions of flints, but subangular pebbles of quartzite, sandstone, lydianstone, and fragments of other rocks, found only at considerable distances to the north and west, occur abundantly in the gravels of this and other valleys subsidiary to the great Thames Valley.

At Berry Wood a quarry section exposes the Chalk, with a very irregular surface underlying a capping of Drift. Mr. John Evans here interested the party by producing perfectly regular cones from Chalk flints, by simply striking the flint nodules sharply with a hammer, the impact of the hammer causing an increased density of the particles composing a cone the apex of which is the point of impact. This section is close to the river Colne, which at this place runs parallel with, and at a short distance from, the northern edge of the London Tertiary Basin. The Colne receives the rainfall of a considerable Eocene area, which, after percolating through the Drift and Lower Eocene sands, passes into the Chalk, and subsequently makes its way into the river, in some cases by springs in or close to its bed. In the beautiful grounds of "Otterspool" are several of these springs, giving forth never-failing streams of the clearest water. Six are at the bottom of the pool, and, together, yield no less than 300,000 gallons of water a day, forming a not inconsiderable affluent of the Colne. The party,

through the kindness of Mr. S. T. Holland, the proprietor, visited this remarkable and picturesque pool, which, by a sounding, was found to be 16 feet deep ; but so clear is the water, that the chalk bottom and even the springs in the deepest part could be distinctly seen.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the Directors, Mr. Lobley reminded the Members that that was the first occasion on which they had been led by a President of the Geological Society, and he trusted that this might be taken as evidence of the good will now existing between the two societies, each of which he hoped would continue to act vigorously in its own way ; the Geological Society promoting the advancement, while the Geologists' Association furthered the diffusion, of geological knowledge.

On returning to Watford, the party were very hospitably entertained at Holly Bank by Mr. and Mrs. James Hopkinson previous to the departure for London by the evening train.

ORDINARY MEETING, MAY 7TH, 1875.

J. LOGAN LOBLEY, Esq., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following Donations were announced :—

“ Abstracts of Proceedings of the Geological Society ;” from that Society.

“ Transactions of the Manchester Geological Society ;” from that Society.

“ Catalogue of Library of the Manchester Geological Society ;” from that Society.

“ Journal of the Society of Arts,” April, 1875 ; from that Society.

“ Annual Report of the East London Naturalists' Society, 1875 ;” from that Society.

“ Watford Natural History Society, Laws and List of Members ;” from that Society.

“ Report of the Coal Commission, 1871 ;” from John A. Coombs, Esq., F.G.S.

The following were elected Members of the Association :—

Alfred F. Bret, Esq., M.D., Vice-Pres. Wat. Nat. His. Soc. ;
Matthew Hamilton Gray, Esq. ; Albert J. Campbell, Esq. ;