VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.

APRIL 21ST, 1873.

Director—ROBERT ETHERIDGE, Esq., F.R.S.

This, the first evening visit of the Association to a Museum, was intended to afford a convenient opportunity to Members to make themselves acquainted with the arrangement, and, to a certain extent, with the contents of this national depository for the fossils of the British Islands.

On the visitors assembling they were conducted by Mr. Etheridge to the lower of the two galleries which encircle the Great Hall, and which contain the Palæontological Collection.

The fossils are exclusively British, and the arrangement is stratigraphical. It will at once be seen, therefore, that the student may find without difficulty the prevailing fossils of any formation, the palæontological characteristics of which he may be desirous of studying. In addition to this simple and very advantageous arrangement, the linear extension of the cases is so great that a zoological classification of the fossils of each formation or *System* is carried out with considerable completeness. Little is left, therefore, to the student to desire in this beautiful Museum, with which every lover of Geology ought to make himself intimately acquainted.

Mr. Etheridge described generally the fauna of each geological System as represented by the contents of the cases brought under the notice of the visitors, commencing with Cambrian and Silurian fossils and ending with the organic remains from the latest deposits. The party were afterwards shown the method of registering the specimens found by the officers of the Geological Survey, the completeness and elaboration of which surprised the visitors not a little, and they testified their gratification at what they had seen and heard during the evening by a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Etheridge, to whom geological students are so much indebted.

EXCURSION TO CHARLTON.

APRIL 26TH, 1873.

Director—Professor MORRIS, F.G.S.

The well-known section at Charlton showing the junction of the English Secondaries and Tertiaries was first visited. Professor Morris, after pointing out to the large party assembled around him

in the great chalk pit the general character of the Chalk and the Lower Eocenes as they occur in the British Islands, described their foreign equivalents, and the beds which are probably intermediate in age between the Upper Chalk and the Thanet Sands of England. Though we find in our home section the Thanet Sands lying conformably on the Chalk, it is more than probable that we have lost some hundreds of feet of chalk, either by sub-aërial or sub-marine denudation, or by decomposition after the deposition of the superincumbent sands. That some of the Chalk has been removed by decomposition is evident from the occurrence of the well-known bed of green-coated flints at the top of the Chalk, which bed must have been formed by the quiet and slow removal of the Chalk in which the flints were originally imbedded.

The Thanet Sands and Woolwich and Reading Series are both of very limited extension in England, the former formation extending only from Pegwell Bay to a little to the west of London; yet the *Sables de Bracheux* and the *Argile plastique* of the continent of Europe shows us that the original extension of these formations was by no means inconsiderable.

Leaving the great Chalk and Thanet Sands Section, the party were conducted nearer to the town of Woolwich, where a fine exposure of the Shell-beds of the Woolwich and Reading Series reposing on the Thanet Sands gave an opportunity for the collection of some of the estuarine shells which are so markedly characteristic of the Woolwich Beds. *Ostrea pulchra* and *Cyrena cuneata* almost form the Shell-beds, but intermingled may be found many specimens of *Melania inquinata* and *Cerithium funatum*.

ORDINARY MEETING, MAY 2ND, 1873.

HENRY WOODWARD, Esq., F.G.S., F.Z.S., &c., President, in the Chair.

The following Donations were announced:—

“On the Wealden as a fluvio-lacustrine formation, and on the relation of the so-called Punfield Formation to the Wealden and Neocomian,” by C. J. A. Meyer, F.G.S.; from the Author.

“Further Notes on the Punfield Section,” by C. J. A. Meyer, F.G.S.; from the Author.