

On the east side of the river the Osborne and Headon beds crop out above high-water mark—the thickness of which strata is 260 feet. Under these arrangements Hempstead beds might more fairly have been expected to be met with on the heights above the west shore of the Medina—but it is not so. On the east side of the river, Bembridge and Osborne beds, after cropping out, dip considerably to the east, and thus the lower beds of the Hempsteads have escaped the force of denudation, and are found capping the hill over the synclinal line of the dip.

Being in the habit of watching the operations of well-sinkers hereabouts, my attention was called to a well which was being sunk near the keeper's lodge on the Osborne Estate. I made a collection of fossils from the clay turned out from this well.

The fossils collected struck me as different from those of the Bembridge series, which the Geological Survey map represents as constituting the strata of the locality, yet for some time their concord with the fossils of the Lower Hempsteads did not occur to me. This collection of fossils was put into a tray for future observation, and, on again examining them, their agreement with some of the fossils of the Hempsteads attracted my attention. The first observation made by Mr. Keeping when I showed them to him was, "They are fossils of the Lower Hempsteads." This opinion I consider decisive, because Mr. Keeping is thoroughly acquainted with the Hempstead beds, indeed more so than any other person, having been for many years watching and collecting from these strata. The productions of this well have been carefully and comparatively examined with the fossils of the Lower Hempstead beds, and they are found to accord with the fauna of beds midway between the *White Band* and the *Black Band*, described by Professor Forbes and Mr. Bristow as "dark blue shaly clay," yielding *Cyrena semistriata*, *Modiola*, *Rissoa Chastellii* major, *Cyprides*, &c.* The bed at Osborne consisted of dark blue shaly clay, and yielded to me *Cyrena semistriata*, *Cyrena obovata*, *Cerithium plicatum*, *Modiola Nystiana*, *Corbula Vectensis*, *Neritina concava*, *Rissoa Chastellii*, *Melania*, &c.

3.—"On the Exchange of Fossils among the Members." By A. Bott, Esq., A.A.

Mr. Bott stated, that having found the difficulty of getting members to

* Mem. Geol. Surv., 1856, Tert. Isle of Wight, p. 43.

exchange specimens, and having received letters from a country member, complaining of the same, he thought it might not be out of place, at the beginning of the session, to say a few words on this subject. The Association would remember it was part of their original prospectus, that the object of the Association was, amongst other things, "to facilitate the exchange of fossils among the members;" and again, it was proposed even "to form a committee to communicate with members as to the exchange of fossils, and the supply of specimens for the museum:" so that the Association gave every facility in its power for carrying out this part of its programme.

He believed that most members who were collectors were possessed of duplicate specimens of many of these fossils; and yet, though they had the power, though they had the services of an Association, one of the objects of which is to facilitate the exchange of specimens, and though they had the fossils at their command, hardly any of them in fact made such exchanges. He believed the only reason was, that different people put such a very different value on the same specimens, each imagining his fossils to be more valuable than those of another person.

He would urge upon members not to be too particular as to the money value of the fossils they received in exchange for what they sent, and reminded them, at all events, they could obtain fossils which they did not possess before, which was the great object of exchange. He himself had acted with advantage on the plan of trusting entirely to his correspondent; having effected a satisfactory exchange of fossils with another member who, having heard through the Association that he wished to exchange, wrote to ask for some fossils from his (the author's) district, promising to send fossils from his own district in return. This was done, and the result was satisfactory to both parties.

He would, therefore, urge upon those members who had duplicates to share the advantage of exchange.

4.—Professor Tennant exhibited some specimens of gold recently forwarded from Nova Scotia to this country. He read extracts from a report which was made by Mr. Howe to Lord Mulgrave, the Governor of the colony, in September last, from which it appeared that the gold discoveries made in the colony in 1860 had been found to be unimportant, the gold occurring in quantities so small as not to afford a satisfactory return