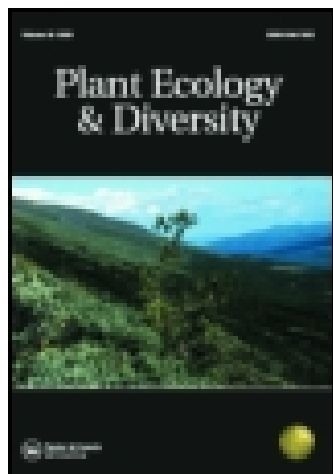


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another book dealing with Botany in a similar way. His latter end was peace.

I cannot conclude without recording one striking instance of his high sense of honour and noble independence. Some of his professors having, during his student days, been informed of his difficulties and hard struggles, had given him his class tickets gratuitously. This kindness he fully appreciated, and, under the circumstances, was compelled to accept, but not without the vow and determination that when he was able he would return their kind gift. No sooner had his appointment to Montrose Asylum put the means of doing so within his power, than he enclosed the money to each of the professors in repayment of what, he stated, he never ceased to regard as a debt of honour. In a like noble spirit the professors refused to receive it, but Dr Gilchrist still felt that the money was not his, and as the only way of gratifying his desire to acknowledge their kindness, he, I believe, handed over the sums to the Medical Missionary Society. What a noble example of Christian heroism does not this act afford?

*Obituary Notices of C. W. Peach, R. Gray, Rev. W. W. Newbould, and Professor E. Morren.* By ANDW. TAYLOR.

CHARLES WILLIAM PEACH died on the 28th February 1886, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. Born at Wansford in Northamptonshire in 1800, where his father was a small farmer, Peach was nominated to the Coast Guard service in 1824, and continued in it till 1845, when he obtained a place in the Customs, mainly on account of his eminent services in geology, palæontology, and marine zoology. Wherever official duties called him—first at Fowey, Cornwall, and afterwards at Peterhead and Wick—Peach gained fresh laurels both as a trusted public servant and a scientific expert, till, retiring about 1862, because of the abolition of the office of comptroller throughout the service, he came to Edinburgh, where he spent the evening of his busy life.

The death of our venerable Associate is noted by public annalists among the events of the year. Doubtless his name is best known by his discoveries in stratigraphical geology and fossil ichthyology, which were landmarks of the advance of

contemporary science. For these he received the Wollaston Fund in 1859, from the London Geological Society; and the Neill Prize Gold Medal and proceeds of the Fund, from the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1875. But that unique power of observation thus trained was available also in the field of fossil botany, which mainly absorbed his closing years. He was elected an Associate at our January meeting of 1870, and in the following six years both laid before us new finds in fossil botany, and created fresh enthusiasm for its study even amongst veterans like Professor John Hutton Balfour and Sir Robert Christison. He received much kindly encouragement from the first of these worthies in making thorough searches in those new localities for fossil plants, then just laid open by industrial enterprise around Edinburgh. He had the co-operation of his son, then as now an officer of the Government Geological Survey. No one more thoroughly realised the necessity of a perfect knowledge of present-day plants for the true diagnosis of those imbedded in the rocks. Though lacking the modern discipline of the botanical laboratory, his wonderful power of seeing facts passed over by others served him well, in many localities opened up in 1870, rich in new finds in palæobotany, such as the new railway tunnel at Colinton, or the waste-shale heaps at Straiton or West Calder, at Cleugh near Falkirk, or Devonside near Tillicoultry, as well as the Grange Quarry, Burntisland. The results of these were given in a series of seven papers which run through our *Transactions* from 1871 to 1875. As brevity was considered a chief merit in a scientific communication by Peach, his brief notices give no idea of the interest excited by the large sepia drawings, as well as the neat way in which the fossils, often mounted in glass cases so as to show both sides of the stem, and having the special characteristics of each specimen carefully indicated by arrows drawn on paper which was gummed to the stone. From our limited audiences several young workers were thus incited to enter this little-trod field of science. Peach demonstrated *Cardiocarpum* to be the fruit of *Antholithes Pitcairniæ*; he showed the close relationship of *Staphylopteris* (?) with *Sphenopteris affinis*, besides giving new localities in Scotland for many English carboniferous plants. Peach's last paper, contributed in

1876, was a comparison of the Fossil Plants in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, with those figured in Stur's *Culm Flora*, then just published. A flower-like plant he always found associated with the fossil fern *Sphenopteris affinis* at West Calder excited much of Peach's enthusiasm, and was the subject of his last and longest paper, communicated to the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society* in 1878. Its proposition is given in the title, which is "On the Circinate Vernation, Fructification, and Varieties of *Sphenopteris affinis*, and on *Staphylopteris* (?) *Peachii* of Etheridge and Balfour, a Genus of Plants new to British Rocks." But, as Mr Carruthers intimated during the discussion on the paper, and as Mr Kidston subsequently demonstrated, the supposed new genus is really the fruit of the fern.

Mr Peach contributed several minor notices at our meetings. Amongst these were remarks on a large cone, like that of *Pinus Benthamiana*; on *Xanthium spinosum*, growing on the banks of the Tweed, supposed to have been introduced in imported wool; and on dodder growing on French clover near Northampton. A paper was read in 1870 on the Fructification of *Griffithsia corallina*, with notes on Miss Jeffrey's observations on algæ during the dredging trip in which Peach accompanied Gwynn Jeffreys to the Shetland outskeries. This was followed up by exhibitions of a rock slab from Stromness, showing imprints of the living marine algæ *Desmarestia aculeata* and *D. viridis*, quite unimpaired after being kept in the cabinet for fourteen years; and also of striped stones from Hale, near Penzance, exhibiting appearances manifestly recently formed, which would have been designated *Calamites* if found on rocks of the carboniferous system.

ROBERT GRAY died from an apoplectic seizure, at Bank of Scotland House, Edinburgh, on 18th February 1887, after an illness of three days, in his sixty-second year. More than one auditor besides the writer of this obituary conversed with our lamented Vice-President, apparently in good health, just a few days before his decease.

Fourteen years ago Mr Gray published *The Birds of the West of Scotland*, whilst actively engaged as a bank inspector. The book has been long out of print, and ranks amongst our most valued treatises on ornithology. When

shortly afterwards Mr Gray was officially removed to Edinburgh, he was recognised as an authority in Scottish natural science. Coming just after Dr John Alexander Smith had resigned his secretaryship of the Royal Physical Society, Mr Gray filled the vacant niche so well as to have added renewed life to a Society whose meetings have all along given a fruitful nurture to so many young naturalists. Mr Gray, as Vice-President, delivered the closing address at the conclusion of the Session of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for 1875. Altogether, his distinguished career suggests a closer union of our Scottish natural science societies, now far more numerous than when, forty years ago, the Botanical and Royal Physical Societies represented the students of natural history. The autonomy of each society might be preserved, while advantages, only to be given by a strong organisation, in respect of frequency and illustration of publications, as well as mutual intercourse of members, might be gained. If such an effort were only to bring another Robert Gray to the front, it is worth attempting.

Mr Gray, though known as a west country naturalist, was born at Dunbar in 1825. Entering bank service immediately after leaving school, he died in harness as cashier to the Bank of Scotland, having passed through the several grades of accountant, inspector, and local manager under different corporations. An enthusiastic natural observer when a boy, he continued so throughout his busy official life. He husbanded time so well, either in the early morning or after eight hours' official duties, to observe and write; thus gaining his scientific reputation, while keeping to the front as a business man.

Joining our membership in 1875, when he occupied a house in Inverleith Row, overlooking the Botanic Garden, Mr Gray ever after took a warm interest in our Society; he became a Councillor, and subsequently a Vice-President. Unlike his predecessor Dr John Alexander Smith, he did not communicate papers, but his presence was an influence both in Council and Society meetings. Mrs Gray writes that her husband was familiar with every plant in the districts of the west of Scotland, explored during bye-times of bank journeyings, when pursuing his special ornithological and palæonto-

logical studies. Perhaps a too scrupulous regard for special excellencies in a scientific communication prevented his display of general botanical knowledge.

The helping of distressed literary and scientific men occupied much of Mr Gray's leisure.

WILLIAM WILLIAMSON NEWBOULD, whose lithe spare form was so long well known in the reading room, or the old Botanical department of the British Museum, died on 16th April 1886, from pneumonia incited by a cab accident in the streets of London. He was born at Sheffield in 1819. Mr Newbould was perhaps the last of the old *species* school of British botanists, with which the early work of our Society was associated. A B.A. of Cambridge in 1842, first curate, and then priest in 1845, Mr Newbould shortly after vacated holy orders, becoming for thirty years a diligent student of Botany at his London headquarters, his life there being varied with occasional country trips, and during that period he was consulted by almost every compiler of local British Floras. A pupil of Prof. Henslow's at Cambridge, he there also began his life-long friendship with C. C. Babington, then ten years his senior. It was through his influence he joined our ranks in 1841. The two botanists made many joint excursions, besides those to Scotland. During the first of these, in 1845, he was invalided under the care of the late Prof. Goodsir at Largo Manse, owing to a coach accident. H. C. Watson repeatedly acknowledges Newbould's aid in the prefaces to his topographical botanic treatises; Newbould, on the other hand, highly valued Watson's work, though he attached more influence to river basins in the topographic distribution of plants than his friend did. Dr Boswell has also acknowledged his deep obligations to Newbould, as editor of the third edition of *English Botany*. But I must refer the reader for further details to the source whence many of these have been obtained, viz., Mr Britten's admirable biography of Mr Newbould (*Jour. Botany*, No. 282, June 1886, vol. xxiv. pp. 161-177).

I cannot omit to quote the following physiognomic sketch : —“The slight bent figure, frail to attenuation with hardness of study and poverty of living; the bald head, its scanty fringe of hair, grizzled like the beard, which all but hid the nervous

sensitive mouth; the wide benevolent forehead; the ragged penthouse brows, shading eyes sometimes almost uncanny in their weird brightness, sometimes beaming with simple child-like pleasure,—the pleasure perhaps of knowing that he had in his pocket some rare volume picked up at a second-hand book stall for the friend to whom he was talking; the long, lean nervous hands, pointed at the tips for handling of minute specimens, dusty with dust of rarely opened books. . . . . The shabby clothes never concealed that impalpable something, that unconscious indestructible stamp of refinement, of gentle birth and gentle culture, which was one of the most delicately marked characteristics of the man so markedly humble.”

Mr Newbould was elected Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1843. A genus of the Bignoniaceæ has been named after him.

The late EDOUARD MORREN, professor of botany, Liege, was elected one of our Foreign Corresponding Fellows in 1876; and was removed to the list of Foreign Honorary Fellows in the following year. First assistant, and subsequently successor to his father Charles Morren, as professor and curator of the Botanical Institute at Liege, he deepened the influence of his parent in furthering Belgian agriculture and horticulture; at the same time making the Institute recognised as one of the best-equipped science schools in Europe. Morren perhaps was most widely known as editor of the *Belgique Horticole* and the *Correspondence Botanique*. His talents as an administrator found scope as secretary of the Federation of Belgian Horticultural Societies. The late Antwerp Botanical International Congress of 1885 owed its great success to his indomitable assiduity.

Edouard Morren was born at Ghent in 1833. Here he also succeeded his father as botanical professor,—the offer of a prize essay on leaf structure and the colouring matters of plants first specialising his studies, which had previously alternated betwixt the law and journalism.

He had the largest and most complete collection of living Bromeliads, intending to write an extended monograph on the order.

Both father and son were valued correspondents with our



Royal Botanic Garden. Edouard Morren's visit to the late Prof. Balfour is still remembered with interest by Edinburgh botanists.

E. Morren's death happened suddenly, just as preparations were being completed for celebrating the 25th anniversary of his occupancy of the Liege botanical chair. He lectured on the 25th February 1886, and towards evening complained of excruciating pains; he expired on the 28th of the same month. Morren thus died in the maturity of his powers, and amidst a singularly unique career of public usefulness.

*Obituary Notice of William Traill, M.D.* By HUGH  
CLEGHORN, M.D., LL.D.

Among the losses which our Society has recently sustained, it is our painful duty to record the death of Dr William Traill of Woodwick, Orkney, who died on 10th December in his residence at St Andrews, and was buried in the new cemetery there. He was born in his father's house, Kirkwall, and educated mainly by private tutors, including the late Principal Fairbairn, then a divinity student. When about eighteen he was sent to Edinburgh, where his medical studies were directed by his relative, Dr Thomas Stewart Traill, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University. During the five years he was studying in Edinburgh he spent the recess in Orkney, where his leisure was devoted to the study of natural history, particularly zoology, on the shores of the islands of Rousay and North Ronaldshay.

We graduated in 1841, and soon afterwards we both obtained appointments in the East India Company's service at Madras, and for some months did duty together, but in the exigencies of military service we were sent in different directions. He was sent to China, and remained for one and a half years at Hong Kong, and was afterwards appointed civil surgeon at Singapore. He visited Penang and the Straits of Malacca. In these places he had abundant leisure and opportunity for studying the natural history of the Indian Archipelago. He was an excellent naturalist, standing in the first rank as a conchologist. He formed a valuable collection of shells at Singapore, and with great liberality supplied duplicate sets to Madras, Dublin, and St Andrews Universities, the museum tickets being all in his own handwriting.