

OBITUARY.

DR. ROBERT KAYE GREVILLE, F.R.S.E.

WE depart from our ordinary rule of not noticing the death of distinguished men, as those who contribute to our pages usually find a place in the annual address of the President of the Microscopical Society. In Dr. R. K. Greville, however, the world has not only lost a distinguished botanist, and a good and a great man, but we have lost a contributor whose place we cannot hope to supply, and whose contributions have been more numerous and more constant, and, we believe we may add without offending any one, more valuable, than any other papers in our pages. These papers have been entirely devoted to the Diatomaceæ, and present a series of minute and careful observations in these minute organisms such as has scarcely been presented during the same time in any other department of natural history. The illustrations of Dr. Greville's observations were all made under his own superintendence, from the beautiful and accurate drawings of his own pencil.

He was born at Bishop Auckland, in Durham, on the 13th of December, 1794. He was much interested in plants at an early age; before he was nineteen he had prepared carefully coloured drawings of upwards of 250 of the native plants. He was intended for the medical profession, and studied in Edinburgh and London; but circumstances having rendered him independent of this profession as a means of livelihood, he did not submit to an examination, and determined to devote himself to the study of botany. In 1824 the University of Glasgow conferred on him the degree of LL.D. He delivered several courses of popular lectures on zoology and botany, and formed large collections of plants and insects, which were eventually purchased by the University of Edinburgh. A change having taken place in his circumstances, he took up landscape-painting as a profession, and several of his pictures are to be seen in well-known collections. Dr. Greville took a very warm interest in many social reforms and in various schemes of Christian philanthropy; and, as in natural history, whatever subject he undertook he devoted to it all his energies and talents. He took a prominent part in the agitation against slavery in the Colonies; he was one of the four Vice-

Presidents of the great Anti-Slavery Association of all countries held in London in 1840. His published works are very numerous: amongst the most valued are the 'Flora Edinensis,' 'Scottish Cryptogamic Flora,' 'Algæ Britannicæ,' and, in conjunction with Sir W. J. Hooker, 'Icones Filicum,' besides numerous papers in various scientific journals. He was Honorary Secretary of the Botanical Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy, of the Imperial Academy Naturæ Curiosorum, and of the Natural History Society of Leipzig; Corresponding Member of the Natural History Societies of Paris, Cherbourg, Brussels, Philadelphia, &c.

He died at his house in Edinburgh on the 4th of June. Seldom has a naturalist retained such peculiar powers of observation to so great an age. We heard from him only a few weeks ago, promising further contributions to his latterly favorite group of organisms, the Diatomacæ. Our present number contains a paper read at a recent meeting of the Microscopical Society of London, and another has since been received, which will be published in our next number.