The Lunar Eclipse of August 3.

I OBSERVE the account given by "H. H." (p. 367) of the eclipse of the moon as seen at Hamburg on August 3. Here the appearance was certainly unusual; at least I never saw anything like it. The shadow cast on the moon (with a perfectly cloudless sky) was irregular and jagged. I at first thought it was a cloud, but, on looking repeatedly at intervals, I continued to observe the same appearance; allowance being made for the progress of the eclipse. I was prevented by circumstances from watching continuously, but observed it at a little before 9, and again repeatedly between 9 and 10. M. C.

La Tour de Peilz, August 22.

As seen from Killin, on Loch Tay, the shadow on the moon had no form similar to that given by "H. H.," in your issue of August 18 (p. 367); the sky was clear, and it seems possible that the clouds caused the straight lines shown in the diagram.

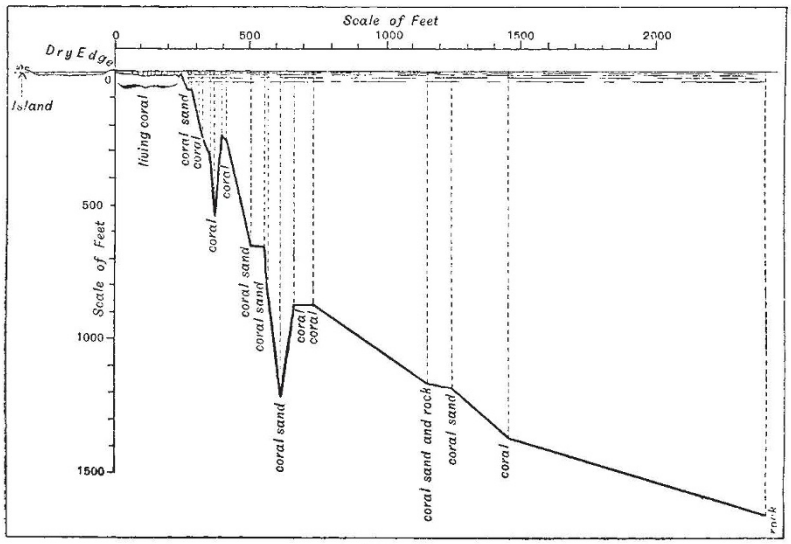
H. P. MALET.

MASÁMARHU ISLAND.

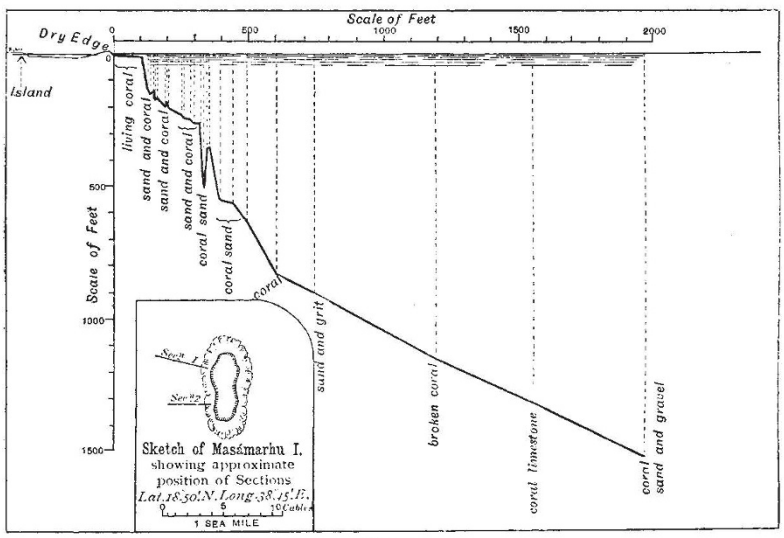
CAPTAIN MACLEAR, commanding H.M.S. *Flying Fish*, obtained, during his voyage home in April last, two sections of the slope of the coral reef surrounding the small island of Masámarhu, situated in the Red Sea in lat. 18° 49′ N., long. 38° 45′ E.

As accurate sections of reefs standing in deep water are comparatively rare, I have thought that a permanent record of them in the pages of NATURE will render them more available to those interested. The reduced copies of these sections, appended, show most of the more important features. They are drawn on equal scales vertical and horizontal, showing the true slope. The dotted vertical lines show where the soundings were obtained. Specimens of coral sand brought home were not from depths sufficient to show the changes of the life on the coral slopes. Mr. John Murray, who has examined them, reports as follows:—

SECTIONS OF CORAL REEF OF MASÁMARHU, RED SEA.



No. 1.



No. 2.

"The fragments of coral belong to *Stylophora palmata*, Blain., a common Red Sea species; and the others to the genera Stylophora and Echinopora, but too fragmentary for specific determination.

"The beach sand has a mottled red and white appearance. The particles are nearly all rounded, and have an average diameter of 3 or 4 millimetres. They consist of corals, Echinoderms, calcareous Algæ, Gasteropod and Lamellibranch shells, and many Foraminifera. Among the latter the following could be recognized: *Paneroplis pertusus*, Forsk.; *Orbitolites complanata*, Lam.; *Rotalia calcar*, d'Orb.; *Amphistegina lessonii*, d'Orb.

"The hardened rock, 'from high-water line near section 2, solid and firm in the sand and similar to the slabs of the south-east shore,' is made up of precisely the same particles as the sand above described, cemented by the infiltration of carbonate of lime among the particles. No mineral particles other than those of organic origin were observed in the sand or hardened slabs."

W. J. L. WHARTON.

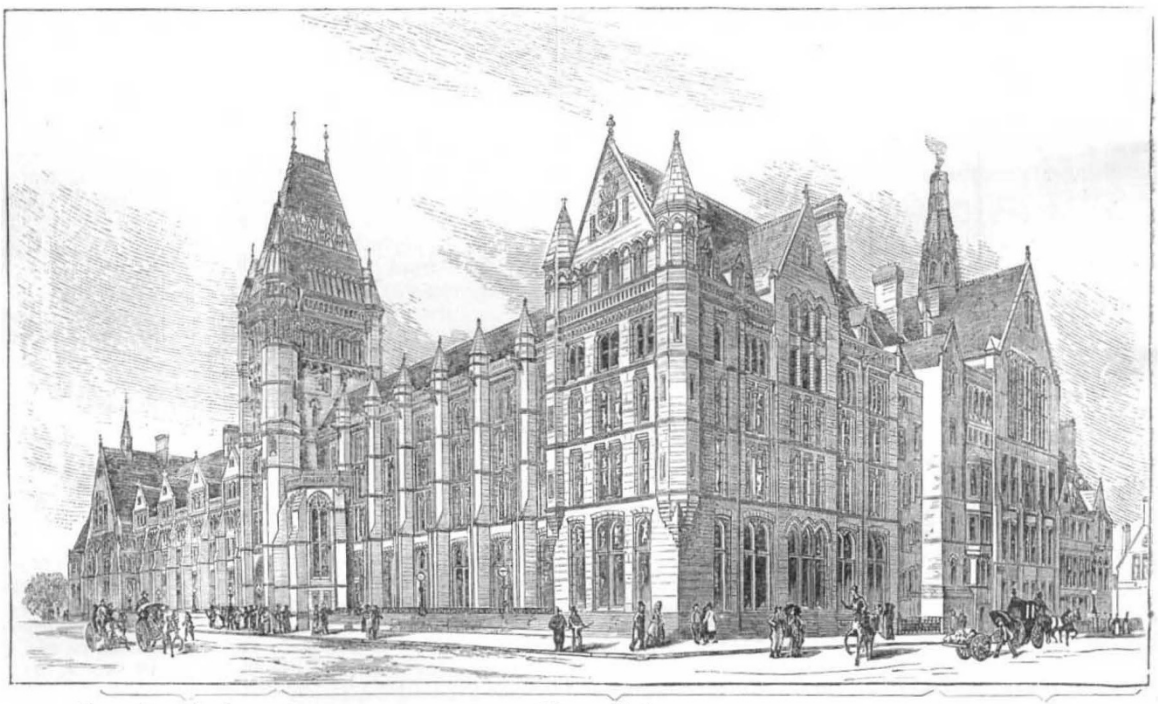
THE OWENS COLLEGE NATURAL HISTORY BUILDINGS.

THE recently completed Natural History Museums and Laboratories form an important addition not merely to the Owens College itself but to the teaching appliances of the country at large.

The buildings, which, like the older part of the College, are from the plans of Mr. Alfred Waterhouse, R.A, extend along the north and east sides of the College quadrangle, the main frontage being towards the Oxford Road. They include a lofty central tower and entrance gateway, large and convenient museums for the various departments of natural history, and a very extensive and well-equipped series of laboratories for zoology, botany, geology, and mineralogy, with lecture-theatres, class-rooms, and private rooms for the professors and demonstrators. The total cost, including fittings, will not be less than £80,000.

The general appearance of the new buildings from the north-east is shown in the illustration.

The Museum block extends along the eastern or Oxford Road frontage, and is approached from the main entrance beneath the central tower; it is also in free communication with the several laboratories. It consists of two main stories, the upper of which has its floor area almost tripled by two very wide galleries, in addition to



Future Extension for Library and Examination Hall. Museum Block. Laboratory Block.

VIEW OF THE NEW BUILDINGS FROM THE OXFORD ROAD.

which there is very extensive storage space in the roof. The ground floor is divided into geological and mineralogical museums, measuring respectively 90 feet by 50 feet, and 65 feet by 26 feet, the former extending along the Oxford Road, the latter facing north, towards Coupland Street. These are lighted from the sides, and will be divided into bays by the main cases, which are placed at right angles to the walls, extending from them to the pillars supporting the roof. In the centre of each bay there will be a large table case, and a smaller one under the window. This arrangement gives at once a maximum of light and a maximum of what is practically wall space; while the division into bays greatly facilitates the classification of the collections, and the different forms of case in each bay enable objects of all kinds to be displayed to advantage.

The upper museum, which is approached by a very handsome staircase in the tower, is similarly divided into zoological and botanical portions. It is lighted both from the sides and above, and the general arrangement of the cases will be the same as in the lower museum, with the addition of long rows of table cases round the edges of the galleries. Two large rooms, for use as articulating and preparation rooms, open directly on to the floor of the museum.

Owens College already possesses very important