

NOTES.

At a meeting of the Biological Society of Washington, on February 7, Mr. Charles D. Walcott, of the U. S. Geological Survey, announced the discovery of vertebrate life in the Lower Silurian (Ordovician) strata. He stated that "the remains were found in a sandstone resting on the pre-Palæozoic rocks of the eastern front of the Rocky Mountains, near Canon City, Colorado. They consist of an immense number of separate plates of placoganoid fishes, and many fragments of the calcified covering of the notochord of a form provisionally referred to the Elasmobranchii. The accompanying invertebrate fauna has the facies of the Trenton fauna of New York and the Mississippi valley. It extends into the superjacent limestone, and at a horizon 180 feet above the fish beds, seventeen out of thirty-three species that have been distinguished are identical with species occurring in the Trenton limestone of Wisconsin and New York. Great interest centres about this discovery from the fact that we now have some of the ancestors of the great group of placoderm fishes which appear so suddenly at the close of the Upper Silurian and the lower portion of the Devonian groups. It also carries the vertebrate fauna far back into the Silurian, and indicates that the differentiation between the invertebrate and vertebrate types probably occurred in Cambrian time." Mr. Walcott is preparing a full description of the stratigraphic section, mode of occurrence and character of the invertebrate and vertebrate faunas, for presentation at the meeting of the Geological Society of America, in August next.

At the annual general meeting of the Geological Society of London, held on Feb. 20th last, the Bigsby medal was awarded to Dr. G. M. Dawson of the Geological Survey of Canada. This is a well deserved honour which Canadians will fully appreciate.