their construction would not be obvious to any eye save that of a practised archæologist. Under such circumstances, negative evidence is, no doubt, of small weight.

Without farther discussion, I will conclude by confessing, that I consider the art of deciphering the cuts and other markings observable on fossil bones to be at present so much in its infancy, that I must hesitate before assenting to M. Desnoyers' proposition, that the fossils of Saint-Prest demonstrate 'the high probability of the existence of Man before the glacial epoch.' But the facts and theory which he has set forth with so much ability will stimulate archæologists and paleontologists to make fresh enquiries, and to search diligently for works of art, wherever cut and striated bones occur. The detection of these markings at Saint-Prest may lead to still more important investigations; and we may be on the eve of great discoveries, however indistinct and shadowy the proofs may now appear. 'Coming events cast their shadows before.' There must have been a cause for each of the incisions above alluded to; nor can it be denied that the cause assigned by M. Desnoyers is, in many cases, more natural than any other which the critics who object to his conclusions are able at present to suggest.

B

(p. 145.)

ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF A HUMAN JAW BONE IN THE HIGHER-LEVEL DRIFT OF MOULIN QUIGNON, IN THE SUBURBS OF ABBEVILLE.

In March 1863, a workman, employed in digging gravel at Moulin Quignon, gave notice to M. Boucher de Perthes, that a bone was to be seen projecting about an inch from the face of a cutting then in progress, and at the depth of 15 feet from the surface. M. Boucher de Perthes immediately repaired to the spot with a friend, and witnessed the extraction of the bone, which proved to be the ramus of a human lower jaw-bone. It lay imbedded in dark sandy gravel, called the 'black seam,' the colour of which was derived from an admixture of oxide of iron and manganese; and the sandy gravel was in contact with the subjacent white chalk.

Several eminent geologists from Paris and London visited the