

CORRESPONDENCE.

BRIMSTONE HILL, ST. KITTS.

SIR,—In the June number of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE Dr. Trechmann has criticized under several headings the views of previous writers on the structure of Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts. As many of his criticisms apply to my own work, perhaps I may be allowed to offer a few further observations.

I think Dr. Trechmann is probably right in describing the core of the hill as of andesite. In looking over my original description of this rock, I find I determined the rock as an "Andesitic Tuff", which I corrected in the MS. to "Andesite". The same alteration appears on the microsection at the British Museum, though it is there registered as "Andesitic Tuff". It was possibly the unique character of the rock, both in the hand specimen and under the microscope, as compared with other West Indian andesites, that led me to follow Spencer's description of the rock as a tuff in my printed report. Or it may be that the report was published and the slides subsequently revised before handing over to the British Museum.

I find it difficult to agree, however, that the mantle of limestone is the relic of beds of Pliocene age which may have underlain the main cone of the island, since it is the only fragment preserved and since igneous activity probably commenced in early Tertiary times. Further, the limestone deposit of Godwin Gut, which occurs at an altitude of 1,150–1,180 feet above O.D., is very probably older than the Brimstone Hill deposit, and can scarcely from its present position have underlain it.

I, of course, agree that the extrusion of the igneous plug is later than the deposition of the sedimentaries, and I state so very clearly in my report (p. 14).

With regard to the detailed analysis of the molluscan fauna of the limestone, Dr. Trechmann has probably more knowledge than myself, but I would point out that he has completely ignored the coral evidence. I do not know if he has studied my paper on Dominica,¹ wherein I list a very similar fauna from other limestone deposits. The curious thing is that all these deposits, which I believe to be of Pleistocene age, appear to be confined to the leeward side of the island.

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¹ GEOL. MAG., Vol. LXV, 1928, p. 169.