

(5) The 'Kalahari Sands,' which cover large areas of the plateau, occur mainly in broad low swells or 'bulks' of friable red sand, now tree-clad. These sweep down to the Zambezi River in the shallow valley above the Victoria Falls, and cannot have been accumulated under existing conditions. The author endorses Dr. S. Passarge's view that they indicate a former period of greater aridity than the present in the Central Basin.

Some irregular patches of surface quartzite and limestone, due to the percolation and evaporation of ground-water, are described and compared with the 'Botletle-Schichten' (Passarge) of the Kalahari, but the author considers that the antiquity of these beds is not so great as that assigned to the 'Botletle-Schichten.'

The paper concludes with a petrographical appendix by Mr. H. H. Thomas, giving the results of his microscopic examination of a series of rock-specimens collected by the author.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ASHGILLIAN SERIES.

SIR,—In connection with Dr. Marr's paper on the Ashgillian Series in this month's GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, it may be of interest to call attention to some further evidence of the age of the Starfish Bed in the Drummuck Series of Girvan which he correlates with the *Stauropcephalus* Limestone of the north of England and Wales. To the list of trilobites from this bed which I have recently given in my monograph on the Lower Palæozoic Trilobites of the Girvan District (Palæontographical Society, 1903–1906) there may now be added the two species *Cheirurus Keisleyensis*, Reed, and *Ampyx binodulosus*, Reed, described by me in 1896 from the Keisley Limestone. Mrs. Gray collected these specimens within the last few months, and they have only lately come into my hands for identification. The affinities of the trilobitic faunas of the Keisley Limestone and Starfish Bed which had been previously observed are appreciably strengthened by these new discoveries.

F. R. C. REED.

SEDGWICK MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE.

February 20th, 1907.

OBITUARY.

EDWARD BEST.

BORN DEC. 20, 1824.

DIED NOV. 8, 1906.

WE regret to record the death on November 8th, 1906, of Edward Best, who for more than thirty-eight years was Resident Geologist to the Geological Survey in Jermyn Street. Born on the 20th December, 1824, he joined the service in January, 1855, shortly before De la Beche died, and he retired on March 31st, 1893. Although he never took a profound interest in geology, he was ever ready to give help to those who sought information at the Geological Survey Office, while his ever cheerful disposition and *bonhomie* endeared him to all who came to know him.
