

CORRESPONDENCE.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CAPE COLONY.

SIR,—In accordance with a resolution of the House of Assembly, carried last year, a Commission has been appointed in terms of the accompanying Notice, “for the purpose of organizing, controlling, and directing the work of Geological Exploration and Survey in this Colony.”

The Commission has now appointed the undermentioned gentlemen to begin the work of surveying and mapping the country:—

Geologist: G. S. Corstorphine, B.Sc. (Edin.), Ph.D. (Munich).

Assistant Geologist: A. W. Rogers, B.A. (Cantab).

” ” E. H. L. Schwarz, A.R.C.S.

As early as possible the Commission will publish and distribute a bibliography of South African Geology.

C. L. LLOYD,

Acting Secretary to Geological Commission.

Geological Department, South African Museum,
Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope.

February, 1896.

DISCOVERY OF INTERGLACIAL SHELL-BEDS IN AYRSHIRE.

SIR,—I beg to intimate that I have discovered Interglacial Shell-Beds at fourteen localities in Ayrshire, ranging from 55 to 740 feet above sea-level.

The Interglacial Beds attain a thickness at parts of over 100 feet, the usual arrangement being:

Upper Boulder-clay (<i>ground moraine</i>) with well-						
striated blocks up to 8 feet in diameter	...					76 feet
Sand Bed ...	...	...	...	...	...	a few ”
SHELLY PEBBLY CLAY ...	...	...	...	...	...	14 ”
Sharp sand, gravel, and muddy sand	...					over 100 ”
Lower Boulder-clay with large well-striated blocks						30 ”

This is taking the beds at their thickest, but not seen in any one section.

The shells are all in *pebbly clay*, which I take to indicate that this bed was deposited *in deep water by surface-currents* carrying clay, and *shore-ice* carrying stones and gravel. I say shore-ice advisedly, as only a few of the stones in this bed reach a diameter of 20 inches. (Had this bed been deposited by *bottom currents*, the clay ought to have been swept away.) In some of the sections the shells are abundant, but mostly as *sharp-edged* fragments. Where there is a sand-bed between the shell-bed and the Upper Boulder-clay, the shells are in the best state of preservation, the sand-bed having acted as a *cushion* against the *trail* of the Upper Boulder-clay (*ground moraine*). Where there is no sand-bed in this position, the shells are more fragmentary and sometimes *scratched*.

I have traced the Interglacials, as gravel, sand, and muddy sandbeds, in the Bowbrone, Garpel, and Guelt valleys, to an altitude of 900 feet above sea-level. The shell-beds occur in the parishes of Loudoun, Sorn, Auchinleck, and Colmonell. The Interglacials range from Dalry to Colmonell, and inland to Muirkirk.

JOHN SMITH.

MONKREDDING, KILWINNING.
April 29th, 1896.

AMMONITES (*ACANTHOCERAS*) *MAMMILLATUM* IN THE
ISLE OF WIGHT.

SIR,—In the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for May, 1896, p. 199 (footnote 2), Mr. R. B. Newton calls attention to *Ammonites mammillatum* having been recorded from the Chloritic Marl in the Geological Survey Memoir on the Isle of Wight, second edition, p. 279, and suggests that there is a mistake. In this I think he is probably right. The table in the Memoir was drawn up in such a way as to show the authority for every fossil. *A. mammillatum* was inserted on the authority of Captain Ibbetson ("Note on the Geology and Chemical Composition of the various Strata in the Isle of Wight," 1849, p. 22), who quotes *A. monile* from the Chloritic Marl. *A. monile*, Sow., according to D'Orbigny (Pal. Franç. Terr. Crét. 1840-1, p. 249), Bronn (Index Pal. 1848, p. 51), and Morris (Cat. Brit. Foss. 1854, p. 297), is *A. mammillatum*, Schloth. The mistake probably lay in the determination of Ibbetson's specimen as *A. monile*.

A. STRAHAN.

12, MARLOES ROAD, KENSINGTON, W.

ICE-WORK.

SIR,—The author of the excellent summary of my book on Ice-Work (see GEOL. MAG. for last month, pp. 228-231) seems to have misunderstood me in one respect. In regard to the parallel roads of Glenroy, he states—"the objections to a marine origin for these 'roads' are regarded as insuperable." I think that a comparison of pages 94-107 with pages 163-198, will show that this is not my opinion. Indeed, I have more than once maintained the contrary. I venture on this correction lest I should be supposed to have changed my mind.

23, DENNING ROAD, HAMPSTEAD, N.W.
May 16th, 1896.

T. G. BONNEY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GUIDE TO THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.—The "Descriptive Guide" to this Museum, of which a fourth edition was published in 1877, has long been out of print, and a new edition has been