

taken by many petrologists to the employment of the term andesite. The lavas of Cant Hill were also probably of an andesitic character, so that, so far as original mineral constitution is concerned, there is some apparent justification for the mapping of both of these rocks as "greenstone" by the Geological Survey.

3. "The Bagshot Beds of the London Basin." By H. W. Monckton, Esq., F.G.S., and R. S. Herries, Esq., B.A., F.G.S.

The authors stated that their object was to describe more fully the Lower Bagshot beds, and to disprove the view lately advanced by Mr. Irving that, in certain places, the Upper Bagshots overlap the Lower and rest directly on the London Clay. They described or referred to a number of sections all round the main mass, beginning at St. Ann's Hill, Chertsey, where they considered that the mass of pebbles and associated greensands must be referred to the Middle Bagshot. The outliers near Bracknell and Wokingham were shown to consist of Lower and not Middle Bagshot, which does not appear in the valley north of Wellington College.

The Aldershot district was explained, and it was shown that the beds there resting on the London Clay were Lower and not Middle Bagshot, and the occurrence of fossils in the Upper Bagshot of that district was recorded.

The conclusions that the authors came to were, that a well-marked pebble-bed was almost always present, marking the division between the Upper and Middle Bagshots, but that there were other pebble-beds of a less persistent character occurring both in the Middle and Lower Bagshot; that the Lower Bagshots generally consist of false-bedded sands with clay laminæ and no fossils except wood, whereas the Upper Bagshots are rarely false-bedded, and are characterized by the absence of clay bands and the presence of marine fossils; and that the Middle Bagshot is a well-marked series consisting of green sands and clays.

They claimed, in conclusion, that there was no reason for disturbing the old reading of the district, and that there was no evidence of an overlap of the Lower Bagshots by the Upper.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SLICKENSIDED SURFACES OF CHALK.

SIR,—Mr. H. Hutchins French, F.G.S., and I have discovered widely spread surfaces of chalk slickensided horizontally in the neighbourhood of Sutton, Surrey. There seems to be abundant evidence that these markings are really due to friction, and they are associated with a remarkable cleaved structure at a high angle to the bedding. This cleavage is very striking, and we should be glad to receive any notices of similar phenomena in the Chalk.

We also find the Thanet Sand to extend further west than was supposed to be the case, it being some 15 feet at Leatherhead, where

it was supposed to have died out, or to have been overlapped by the Woolwich Beds.

We have prepared some interesting new sections in the Lower Tertiaries around Epsom, which we hope to publish shortly.

CARSHALTON, SURREY,
May 10th, 1886.

SYDNEY B. J. SKERTCHLY.

MEMORANDUM FOR GEOLOGISTS VISITING WEYMOUTH.

SIR,—Driving from Weymouth the other day, I noticed some magnificent blocks of the cherty flint of Bincombe Down,¹ placed to be broken up for mending the road. This shows that the part of the Lower Eocene bed there is now open which contains these blocks. I would strongly advise any geologist visiting Weymouth, who is conversant with the Cretaceous series, to examine these blocks. If I am not mistaken, they represent some horizon which has entirely disappeared from the area. It does not seem to me quite certain whether they are flints, altered in texture, or whether they are chert. In shape and size they are like those which are and have been worked for implements at Brandon; but in texture they are quite different, being grey throughout and opaque, with many casts of fossils. Similar flints, containing similar fossils, occur in the extraordinary flint bed resting upon the Greensand of Haldon Hill, near Exeter: and there is a collection of the fossils in the Exeter Museum; as there is also a small collection of the Bincombe fossils at Dorchester.

The observer must not be deceived by certain flints to be seen in walls, etc., along the Weymouth road, which are not chalk flints, but come out of the Portland beds at Bincombe. They are usually nearly spherical in shape, and black inside.

O. FISHER.

DOES *TEREDO* INHABIT FRESH WATER?

SIR,—I have found an account by Dr. E. P. Wright of a new *Teredo* which he names *Nausitoria* from the Ganges, in the Linnean Soc. Trans. 1864, p. 451. It is found in the river Comer, a loop which runs separately from the Ganges for 80 miles, when it rejoins the main river at Mandarapore, 70 miles from the sea. The water for 30 miles below Mandarapore is perfectly fresh, when it becomes slightly brackish at full tide; but in the Comer it is always quite fresh and soft and used for drinking, washing, etc. Trees and boats are however attacked by a *Teredo* in it, and hence Dr. Wright believes that at all events this species does live in perfectly fresh water.

J. S. GARDNER.

¹ See Damon's Geology of Weymouth and Portland, 2nd edition, p. 143.
