

They are certainly not more technical, and I should have thought even less technical, than the phrases 'facetted pebbles' and 'tabular outliers' which he prefers. They don't mean the same thing, it is true; but supposing they did, the objection to them seems to me that they are German and not English. In so far, I agree with your reviewer rather than with Mr. Grabham. One should distinguish very carefully between the using of foreign words out of laziness or because one is ignorant of one's own language, and the use of a correct technical term. A technical term, to be worthy of the name, should be clearly defined, and should be capable of use in all languages with equal convenience. For this reason it is generally preferable to form technical terms out of Greek or Latin words.

The word 'Dreikante' is not a good technical term. It does not mean a wind-worn pebble, but a tripyramidal or triquetral pebble, and the wind-worn pebbles that have this shape are in a minority. In the second place, being German and not English, it presents peculiar difficulties. Mr. Grabham himself writes of 'a dreikanter', when he means a Dreikante (though it is not clear that he would exclude Einkanter, Zweikanter, Vierkanter, u.s.w.), while the last gentleman who wrote on them in your pages persistently spoke of 'Dreikañte' when he meant 'Dreikanter'. German is an excellent language—for Germans; but when I am writing for Englishmen, I prefer to write in English, rather than to risk errors in a foreign tongue.

F. A. BATHER.

May 2, 1911.

THE LAND-ICE QUESTION.

SIR,—Though I ought to leave Mr. Deeley to reply for himself, is not the difficulty raised by the Rev. O. Fisher in the Magazine for May, p. 238, removed when we regard the so-called ground-moraine of Boulder-clay as consisting originally of intraglacial material, moved forward at various levels within and with the body of the ice? This is the view forced upon one by the examination of Arctic glaciers, as Garwood and Gregory and others have pointed out. Even in India, as T. D. La Touche shows, some glaciers consist largely of stones. A composite mass of this kind may do a large amount of damage to its floor. The conception of the formation of Boulder-clay as an independent entity under ice is probably not commonly held at the present time by glacialists.

GRENVILLE A. J. COLE.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN.

May 10, 1911.

OBITUARY.

ÉDOUARD FRANÇOIS DUPONT.

BORN JANUARY 31, 1841.

DIED MARCH 31, 1911.

We regret to record the death at Cannes, at the age of 70, of É. Dupont, the Honorary Director of the Royal Museum of Natural History at Brussels. The results of his early geological studies on the Carboniferous Limestone of Belgium and on the fossil Cephalopods date from 1859, and he subsequently published observations on the Devonian.

On that subject his most important paper was entitled "Terrain dévonien de l'Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse: Les îles coralliennes de Roly et de Philippeville" (Bull. Mus. R. Hist. Nat. Belg., 1882). Dupont is perhaps best known for his long-continued researches on the Belgian caverns, especially those on the borders of the Meuse and of its tributary the Lesse, some account of which was given in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for 1866, p. 566. To the Quaternary deposits of the valleys, the fossil mammals, and the question of the Antiquity of Man he devoted much attention, and the results of much of this work was embodied in a volume entitled *L'homme pendant les Ages de la Pierre dans les Environs de Dinant-sur-Meuse*, 1871 (2nd ed. 1872). In 1865 Dupont had published an essay on a geological map which he had prepared of the country around Dinant, his birthplace. In later years he was associated with M. Murlon, now Director of the Geological Survey of Belgium, in the preparation of a general map of the country, and in many of the separate sheets (on a larger scale) issued by the survey. In his *Géologie de la Belgique* (1880) M. Murlon has given a list of Dupont's publications up to that date. In 1887 he turned his attention to the Congo, and after personal explorations in that territory he published observations on the geology, anthropology, and other natural history subjects, in *Lettres sur le Congo. Récit d'un voyage scientifique entre l'embouchure du fleuve et le confluent du Kassai*, 1889.

As Director of the Royal Museum Dupont was much interested in the remains of *Iguanodon*, almost complete skeletons of which were obtained from the Wealden of Bernissart, near Mons, and mounted under his superintendence. A reproduction of the *Iguanodon Bernissartensis*, Boulenger, was set up in the Geological Department of the British Museum (Natural History) and figured with descriptive remarks by Dr. H. Woodward in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for July, 1895, p. 289.

Among the later publications of Dupont was an account of "Bernissart et les Iguanodons" in a Guide to the Collections in the Brussels Museum, 1897.

Dupont was elected a Foreign Correspondent of the Geological Society of London in 1879, and a Foreign Member in 1897.

H. B. W.

ALEXANDER SOMERVAIL.

BORN MARCH 4, 1841.

DIED DECEMBER 30, 1910.

THE close of the year 1910 witnessed the death of Alexander Somervail, a worthy successor in his scientific pursuits to William Pengelly, F.R.S., whose post, as Hon. Secretary of the Torquay Natural History Society, he was chosen to fill when its noted founder, the explorer and historian of Kent's Cavern, retired after forty-five years unremitting work. The traditions, activities, and success of the Society were ably maintained by the succeeding secretary for nearly twenty years, when he, too, aged in its service, reluctantly resigned only a few months before his decease in Torquay on December 30, 1910, in his 70th year.

Alexander Somervail was born in 1841 in the Water of Leith