

Si O <sub>3</sub>	. . . . .	26·00
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	. . . . .	40·05
Fe O	. . . . .	19·50
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	. . . . .	5·05
Mg O	. . . . .	2·88
Loss on ignition	. . . . .	6·00
		99·48
Total	. . . . .	99·48

The author discusses some of the published analyses, and suggests that many of the discrepancies may be due to impurities in the material analyzed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE AGE OF THE RAND BEDS.

SIR,—In the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, 1897, p. 549, Mr. W. Gibson states that I have obtained fossils of doubtful Carboniferous age from a dolomite associated with the Gat's Rand Beds. I am not aware of having made such a statement, and it certainly does not occur in the paper alluded to ("The Occurrence of Dolomite in South Africa," Q.J.G.S., vol. L, p. 561). In fact, so far as I am aware, no fossils of any kind have hitherto been discovered in the Dolomite of this country.

DAVID DRAPER.

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 31, 1897.

THE OCCURRENCE OF *PLACOPARIA* IN THE SKIDDAW SLATES.

SIR,—In the course of my work on the Graptolite Fauna of the Skiddaw Slates I have come across two specimens of the trilobite *Placoparia*. No mention of this form is made by Postlethwaite and Goodchild in their paper on the "Trilobites of the Skiddaw Slates" (Proc. Geol. Assoc., vol. ix, p. 455), and as it is known to be characteristic of a definite horizon in other localities, it seems worth while to place on record the occurrence of this genus in the Lake District. The specimens in question come from two different localities, Outerside and Ellergill, and are in the Woodwardian Museum. The Ellergill specimen is a recent gift from Professor H. A. Nicholson.

GERTRUDE L. ELLES.

WOODWARDIAN MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE, February, 1898.

OBITUARY.

OSCAR FRIEDRICH VON FRAAS.

BORN JANUARY 17, 1824.

DIED NOVEMBER 22, 1897.

WE regret to announce the death of the veteran geologist Dr. Oscar von Fraas, of Stuttgart, Director of the Royal Württemberg Museum of Natural History. He was born at Lorch, in Swabia, in 1824, and after his ordinary education at school he proceeded to the University of Tübingen. There he devoted special attention to

theology, with the intention of entering the Church; but he was at the same time also deeply interested in natural science, and he attended the lectures of Quenstedt, who filled him with enthusiasm for geology and palæontology. He worked hard in collecting fossils and making geological observations in Swabia, and when he had the opportunity of spending a year in Paris, in 1847, he attended the lectures of D'Orbigny and Elie de Beaumont at the School of Mines. On returning to his native country, Fraas followed his theological profession, and from 1850 to 1854 he was pastor of Laufen a. d. Eyach. In 1854 he became Conservator of the Department of Mineralogy and Palæontology in the Royal Württemberg Museum at Stuttgart, an office which he held until a few years ago, when, on the retirement of Dr. von Krauss, he succeeded to the Directorship, and left his son, Dr. Eberhard Fraas, in charge of the minerals and fossils. In the course of his official labours, Dr. Oscar von Fraas not only made the Stuttgart collection one of the finest in Europe, and enriched it with Swabian fossil batrachians, reptiles, and mammals, many of which are absolutely unique; he also published popular writings to interest the people in his work, and carried on a long series of researches, of which the results appear in more than sixty papers and memoirs. Most of these relate to the geology, fossils, and prehistoric archæology of Württemberg; but some also recount his experiences in the East, which he visited in 1864-5, and again in 1875. He paid special attention to the geology of the Lebanon; and the scientific results of his journeys through Syria are collected in a small volume entitled "Aus dem Orient," which was published in two parts (1867 and 1878). Among his larger memoirs, those on the Miocene Mammalian Fauna of Steinheim (1870), and on the armoured reptile *Actosaurus* from the Swabian Trias (1877), are especially important contributions to knowledge. Dr. Oscar von Fraas was elected a Foreign Correspondent of the Geological Society of London a few days before his death.

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LIEUT.-COLONEL CHARLES COOPER-KING, F.G.S.

BORN FEBRUARY 4, 1843.

DIED JANUARY 16, 1898.

CHARLES COOPER-KING, Lieut.-Colonel Royal Marine Artillery (retired), died at his residence, Kingsclear, Camberley, Surrey, on the 16th of January, 1898, aged nearly 55 years. The only son of Major U. H. King, R.M., Light Infantry, he was born at Plymouth. He was at school there until the end of 1859, passed into the Royal Marines as a Marine Cadet in January, 1860, second on the list, and joined H.M.S. "Excellent." He passed as a Second Lieutenant R.M. at the Royal Naval College, Portsmouth, first on the list (1862); and, recommended for the R.M. Artillery, he was gazetted at Fort Cumberland. In 1864, he was appointed to command the detachment of Marines on H.M.S. "Scylla" in the China seas and Japan. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1865; and rejoined headquarters (Eastney) in 1867. He passed (fourth) into the Staff College, July, 1868; and in August he