

the view that in chondritic meteorites the less the amount of nickeliferous iron the richer it is in nickel.

Dr. G. F. Herbert Smith: "A Student's Goniometer." This instrument, which was made by Messrs. J. H. Steward, Ltd., is of the type in which the direction of reference is given by the reflection of some distant object in a mirror, and in which the axis of the graduated circle is horizontal. A ball and socket joint provides the mirror with all the necessary adjustments in direction, and it is also movable vertically in the plane of the axis of the circle. The crystal holder is provided with a simple and convenient form of adjustment which enables a crystal to be measured, as regards one-half, without removal from the wax. A pointer on a swinging arm facilitates the setting of the crystal in the axis of the circle.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

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#### MOUSTERIAN FLAKE-IMPLEMENTS.

SIR,—Mr. Henry Dewey, in his note "On some Palæolithic Flake-implements from the High Level Terraces of the Thames Valley" (*GEOL. MAG.*, February, 1919, pp. 49–57), in dealing with the fact that flint-implements of what is known as the "cave" period, are generally made from flakes, states, on p. 55, that "some are carefully worked on a disc-face, a faceted platform prepared, and by a single blow on this platform a complete implement detached from the core. By this means half the work expended on their manufacture was saved . . ." The comparison here is with the earlier Palæolithic "cave" implements exhibiting flake-scars on both faces. But the view, which for some unaccountable reason seems widely held, that the flake-implement of Mousterian man was a labour-saving device is erroneous. The process of making a flake-implement was as follows: a large nodule or block of flint was first carefully shaped by flaking into a tortoise-like form, and this process almost certainly took as long as the manufacture of a normal Chellean or Acheulean cave-implement. But when Mousterian man had made what may be regarded as his core-implement, he proceeded to detach a flake from it, and after trimming it round the edges, to use this flake as an implement. And in many cases the core, over which so much labour had been spent, was thrown away as useless. I fail to understand how it is possible to regard this method of implement-making as demonstrating that Mousterian man was able to produce his flake-implements with half the labour expended by the earlier Palæolithic people on their pointed and ovate artefacts. In fact, I see no connexion between the Chellean and Acheulean core-implements and the flake-implements of the Mousterians. The technique of the latter is totally different, and was probably practised by a different race of people from the Acheuleans.

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March 27, 1919.