

was large and inconvenient for the pocket, according to a custom often observed by Mr. Smith, whose memory for localities was so exact, that he has often, after many years, gone direct to some hoard of this nature to recover his fossils. This road, however, over Boziate Hill, he was not to travel again.'

Baker wrote 'It seems to have escaped your recollection that the very last excursion he took—the day after he came to us—was to Boziate, Woolaston and Wellingboro' and it is a remarkable illustration as well of his extraordinary memory as of the habit alluded to, that after the lapse of twenty years, in going up Boziate Hill he related to us the circumstance which you have recorded and shewed us the very spot where he hid the ammonite.'

REFERENCES

- BAKER, G. 1839. Extract of a letter from George Baker, Esq. referring to the death of Dr. William Smith. *Mag. Nat. Hist.* n.s. 3, 515–16.
 PHILLIPS, J. 1844. *Memoirs of William Smith, LL.D.* London: John Murray.

D. T. DONOVAN.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY,
 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON,
 GOWER STREET,
 LONDON W.C.1.

7th January, 1969.

THE SILURO-DEVONIAN BOUNDARY

SIR,—At the Third International Symposium on the Silurian-Devonian boundary at Leningrad in July, the Silurian-Devonian boundary Committee recommended, almost unanimously, the use of the horizon of the base of the *Monograptus uniformis* Zone, as recognized in a boundary stratotype, as the Siluro-Devonian boundary. However, owing to the premature termination of the International Geological Congress at Prague, this recommendation has not yet been ratified and furthermore a boundary stratotype has yet to be selected, let alone agreed and ratified by the I.G.C. Nevertheless, it probably remains true that a majority of Siluro-Devonian workers will now be using this horizon as a definition of the base of the Devonian System.

Published information on the faunas and floras of the *M. uniformis* Zone is very limited; and as yet recognition of the horizon rests very largely on the identification of the zone fossil. The Committee's deliberations at the Leningrad Symposium showed that this situation will not long continue; nevertheless until a stratotype is selected it is possible that correlation with this horizon, as recognized in various parts of the world, will lead to conflicting results.

At present the *uniformis* Zone horizon cannot be recognized with any degree of certainty in British Siluro-Devonian sequences. Correlation of the horizon is dependent upon the vertebrate faunas and it is not yet agreed that these provide an unequivocal solution (but see Tarlo 1965). Opinion is even divided upon the value of these faunas in the definition and correlation of the major subdivision boundaries within, for example, the Anglo-Welsh area of Lower Old Red Sandstone. Hence inter-regional correlation using these faunas seems impractical. On the other hand recent publications by Richardson & Lister (1968) and by Warren (1968) indicate that micropalaeontological studies may soon lead to a satisfactory correlation of the British sequences with those in which the *M. uniformis* Zone is recognized, but this is not yet possible.

The Institute of Geological Sciences recognizes the desirability of international co-operation in geology (in this instance in the definition of systematic boundaries) as being in the interests of, for example, ease of communication, the compilation of bibliographies and reference systems and palaeoecological and palaeogeographical reconstructions. Nevertheless, in the light of the foregoing comments we do not at present feel justified in redefining the Siluro-Devonian boundary in Britain, and we shall, as a matter

of policy, in the immediate future at least, continue to use the Ludlovian-Downtonian boundary as the Siluro-Devonian boundary.

The contents of this letter have been discussed and agreed by the Director and all interested colleagues in the Institute of Geological Sciences.

REFERENCES

- RICHARDSON, J. B. & LISTER, T. R. 1968. Upper Silurian and Lower Devonian spore assemblages from type and other localities in the Welsh Borderland and South Wales. *Abstr. Proc. 3 Int. Symp. Sil-Dev. Boundary, Leningrad*, p. 188.
- TARLO, L. B. Halstead. 1965. Siluro-Devonian Boundary. *Geol. Mag.*, 102 (4), 349–50.
- WARREN, P. T. 1968. The significance of recent progress in the regional correlation of the Ludlovian-Downtonian boundary. *Abstr. Proc. 3 Int. Symp. Sil-Dev. Boundary Leningrad*, p. 240.

P. T. WARREN.

INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES,
RING ROAD HALTON,
LEEDS, 15, LS15 8TQ.

24th January, 1969.

CYCLOTRON, A NEW NAME FOR POLYPHYMA GROOM

SIR,—It was noticed by Neave in his *Nomenclator Zoologicus* that the generic name *Polyphyma*, proposed by Groom (1902) for a Cambrian ostracod, is preoccupied by *Polyphyma* Jakovlev, 1877 [Insecta], and *Polyphyma* Hamm, 1881 [Bryozoa]. A new generic name *Cyclotron* (neuter gender) is proposed for Groom's genus, with the type-species *Polyphyma lapworthi* Groom because this is the type-species of *Polyphyma* Groom by original designation. The new name refers to the two D-shaped valves of the carapace.

Cyclotron lapworthi is one of the horny bivalved crustaceans commonly referred to as the 'Conchostraca' but which Sylvester-Bradley (1961, p. Q100) regards as ostracods; Öpik (1967, p. 393) concurs and places them in the Order Bradoriida Raymond.

The type-material of *C. lapworthi* is from the lowest White-Leaved-Oak Shales of the Malvern Hills, beds of late Middle or Early Upper Cambrian age. In the Nuneaton District, work by the Institute of Geological Sciences shows that species of *Cyclotron* occur throughout the Upper Cambrian (excluding the Tremadoc) but *C. lapworthi* is found only in the *Olenus* Zone. *Cyclotron angelini* (Barrande) is a subzonal index for the topmost subzone of the *Olenus* Zone in Sweden (Westergaard 1947, p. 18). Two other species listed by Ulrich & Bassler (1931, p. 66–67) may be referred to the genus: *C. armatum* (Groenwall) from the Middle Cambrian of Denmark and *C. marginatum* (Ulrich & Bassler) from the Upper Cambrian of Newfoundland. Sylvester-Bradley was evidently mistaken in recording a Lower Cambrian age for this genus.

This letter is published by permission of the Director of the Institute of Geological Sciences.

REFERENCES

- GROOM, T. T. 1902. On *Polyphyma*, a New Genus belonging to the Leperditidae, from the Cambrian Shales of Malvern. *Q. Jl geol. Soc., Lond.*, 58, 83–88.
- HAMM, H. 1881. *Die Bryozoen des Mastrichter Ober-Senon*. Berlin.
- JAKOVLEV, V. E. 1877. [Heteroptera from Northern Persia.] *Trudy russk. ént. Obsch.*, 10, 67–98. [In Russian].
- ÖPIK, A. A. 1967. The Mindyallan Fauna of North-Western Queensland. *Bull. Bur. Miner. Resour. Geol. Geophys. Aust.*, 74, vol. 1, 1–404.