

CORRESPONDENCE.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CAPE COLONY.

SIR,—In accordance with a resolution of the House of Assembly, carried last year, a Commission has been appointed in terms of the accompanying Notice, “for the purpose of organizing, controlling, and directing the work of Geological Exploration and Survey in this Colony.”

The Commission has now appointed the undermentioned gentlemen to begin the work of surveying and mapping the country:—

Geologist: G. S. Corstorphine, B.Sc. (Edin.), Ph.D. (Munich).

Assistant Geologist: A. W. Rogers, B.A. (Cantab).

” ” E. H. L. Schwarz, A.R.C.S.

As early as possible the Commission will publish and distribute a bibliography of South African Geology.

C. L. LLOYD,

Acting Secretary to Geological Commission.

Geological Department, South African Museum,
Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope.

February, 1896.

DISCOVERY OF INTERGLACIAL SHELL-BEDS IN AYRSHIRE.

SIR,—I beg to intimate that I have discovered Interglacial Shell-Beds at fourteen localities in Ayrshire, ranging from 55 to 740 feet above sea-level.

The Interglacial Beds attain a thickness at parts of over 100 feet, the usual arrangement being:

Upper Boulder-clay (<i>ground moraine</i>) with well-						
striated blocks up to 8 feet in diameter	...					76 feet
Sand Bed ...	...	...	...	...	...	a few ”
SHELLY PEBBLY CLAY ...	...	...	...	...	...	14 ”
Sharp sand, gravel, and muddy sand	...					over 100 ”
Lower Boulder-clay with large well-striated blocks						30 ”

This is taking the beds at their thickest, but not seen in any one section.

The shells are all in *pebbly clay*, which I take to indicate that this bed was deposited *in deep water by surface-currents* carrying clay, and *shore-ice* carrying stones and gravel. I say *shore-ice* advisedly, as only a *few* of the stones in this bed reach a diameter of 20 inches. (Had this bed been deposited by *bottom currents*, the *clay* ought to have been swept away.) In some of the sections the shells are abundant, but mostly as *sharp-edged* fragments. Where there is a sand-bed between the shell-bed and the Upper Boulder-clay, the shells are in the best state of preservation, the sand-bed having acted as a *cushion* against the *trail* of the Upper Boulder-clay (*ground moraine*). Where there is no sand-bed in this position, the shells are more fragmentary and sometimes *scratched*.