

which to many palæontologists was far from being impassable, long before the discoveries just mentioned. The amphiœolous character of the vertebræ of *Ichthyornis* presents another most remarkable peculiarity, which is also of high significance. I hear rumours of the discovery of another *Archæopteryx* in the Solenhofen Slates, which is said to present the head in a much more complete condition than that in which it occurs on the magnificent slab now in the British Museum. As yet, I believe, the jaws have not had the matrix removed from them; but should they prove to be armed with teeth, it will to me be a cause of satisfaction rather than surprise, as confirming an opinion which some fifteen years ago¹ I ventured to express, that this remarkable creature may have been endowed with teeth, either in lieu of or combined with a beak.

I must not, however, detain you longer with any of these general remarks, which are, moreover, becoming somewhat egotistic, but will now proceed to the business of this Section, in which I hope that more than one paper of great value and interest will be forthcoming.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MONTE GENEROSO BEDS.

SIR,—The French Geologist who supplied information to your correspondent, the Rev. E. M. Cole, respecting the age of these beds (*GEOL. MAG.*, Decade II. Vol. V. p. 378), provided him with an order of succession which has been well known for many years. But if the divisions and their relative positions be clear enough, their correlation with members of the Mesozoic series in England is fraught with considerable difficulty.

The Como deposits in question include all the representatives of the Lias and Oolites and something more. Taking them one by one in descending order, as given by Mr. Cole's informant, we have:

1. *Majolique*: A white compact limestone, the celebrated *Majolica* marble of the Italians. This must not be mistaken for the very similar *Biancone*, which was for a long time confounded with it, but which is now known to be of Neocomian age, and consequently newer than the *Majolica*. The latter is not only like Chalk in appearance, but is, like it, also characterized by the presence of flints in nodules and bands; it is often dolomitic and contains but few fossils, principally *Trigonellites* and rarely *Ammonites*.
2. *Calcaire rouge*: The *Calcaire rosso ammonitifero* of Lombardy, not altogether the representative of the division which goes by that name in the Apuan Alps. This red deposit teems with Ammonites of species which, to the confusion of the palæontologist, are elsewhere characteristic of various horizons from the Lower Lias to the Upper Oolite.

¹ *Nat. Hist. Rev.*, vol. v. p. 421. According to Dr. Haberlein, the possessor of the second specimen, *the jaws are armed with teeth!* thus confirming Dr. John Evans's opinion founded on an examination of the specimen preserved in the British Museum; where, on the slab of stone which contains it, a small detached jaw with teeth is to be seen lying.—*EDIT. GEOL. MAG.*

3. *Calcaire gris* (not grès): The ornamental marble of Saltrio, containing *Ammonites Bucklandi*.
4. *Calcaire noir*: The black marble of Varenna. This is the base of the "*Jura Lombard*." Beneath it occur in places, and especially between Lakes Lugano and Como, (5) some extremely interesting black fossiliferous shales, which have been referred to the St. Cassian Group by Escher v. d. Linth. Below these again comes
6. The *Conglomérat marneux*: in which fossils are not known, but which is referred to the Keuper horizon by Omboni.

How very different a set of deposits we have here from anything to be found in England between Trias and Neocomian will be seen at once; but if an attempt at correlation could serve any useful purpose, it would be something like this:

Biancone.	Lower Neocomian of Speeton.
Majolica.	Portlandian. Kimmeridgian. Corallian. Oxfordian. Lower Oolite.
Calcare rosso ammonitifero (= <i>Calcaire rouge</i>).	Upper, Middle, and Lower Lias (in part).
Marmo di Saltrio (= <i>Calcaire gris</i>).	Lower Lias (<i>Ammonites oxynotus</i> and <i>Amm. Bucklandi</i> horizons).
Calcare degli stampi (= <i>Calcaire noir</i>).	White Lias.
Guggate Beds.	Rhætic.
Green and Red Marls (= <i>Conglomérat marneux</i>).	Keuper.

It should be noted that all these divisions are perfectly conformable, and that, notwithstanding the very marked difference in colour, the white majolica and the red ammonite bed are, palæontologically speaking, one continuous whole.

Much information (and extremely varied, for no two, of the earlier authors at least agree in their interpretation of the facts) on this subject will be found in the papers of Pasini, Catullo, Curioni, de Filippi, de Collegno, Omboni, etc. From a paper by the last-named geologist, much of the above matter is taken.

The "*Calcaire rosso*" of the Apuan Alps, the vicissitudes of which I described in 1876,¹ appears to be probably the equivalent of the *Marmo di Saltrio*.

G. A. LEBOUR.

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¹ "The Carrara Marbles," *GEOL. MAG.*, Decade II. Vol. III. p. 289.