

Exploration Company was able to use a shallow drilling outfit to sink a borehole on the crest of the structure for additional information. While this was in progress a small outcrop of Fullers Earth Rock with the characteristic brachiopod fauna was located near by, and the boring passed from just below this level into normal Upper Inferior Oolite, reached at 164 feet, in which operations were suspended.

Although, of course, in no way conclusive this additional evidence tended to support our view that the Compton Valence structure is of salt dome type for the nearest main outcrop shows Cretaceous resting upon Oxfordian and Kimmeridgian rocks. It consequently provides a good alternative source for the very local Winterbourne Abbas conglomerate. As Mr. Robbie recognized, there are several difficulties about derivation of the pebbles from the Abbotsbury anticline, whereas a slight heave of deeply buried salt much nearer at Compton Valence might well produce just this effect.

BRITANNIC HOUSE,
LONDON, E.C. 2.
16th June, 1950.

N. L. FALCON.
P. E. KENT.

SYNONYMOUS HOMONYMY AT GENERIC LEVEL

SIR,—Apropos Mr. L. Bairstow's letter (*Geol. Mag.*, lxxxvii, 1950, p. 226), the following seems to be a genuine case, and it illustrates an unusual mode of operation of the rules governing type designation.

The ammonite genus *Blanfordia* Uhlig 1905, non Adams 1863, was renamed *Blanfordiceras* by Cossmann (1907, *Revue crit. Paléozool.*, xi, 64), but no type was designated by either Uhlig or Cossmann. In 1924 L. F. Spath (*Pal. Indica*, ix, mem. 1, p. 16) wrote "*Blanfordiceras* n.n. olim '*Blanfordia*' preoccupied". In 1923 the combination *Blanfordiceras wallichii* had appeared in another paper by Dr. Spath (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, lxxix, 302) without explanation or indication that the generic name was new, and in 1925 (*Mon. Hunterian Mus. Glasgow*, Coll. Foss. Somaliland, p. 145) appeared "*Blanfordiceras* Spath", with a footnote stating that "the type is *Bl. wallichii* (Gray) [1830], pl. C, fig. 3". Thus, it appears that *Blanfordiceras* Spath 1923 is an independent synonymous homonym of *Blanfordiceras* Cossmann 1907, both being nomina nova for *Blanfordia* Uhlig 1905.

Further, since *Ammonites wallichii* Gray is type species by monotypy of *Blanfordiceras* Spath 1923, by Article 30, II, f, *A. wallichii* Gray is also type species of *Blanfordia* Uhlig (of which it was a syntype), and therefore also of the valid *Blanfordiceras* Cossman 1907.

SEDGWICK MUSEUM,
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June, 1950.

W. J. ARKELL.

REVIEWS

STRATIGRAPHY AND PALEONTOLOGY OF THE BROWNSPORT FORMATION (SILURIAN) OF WESTERN TENNESSEE. By T. W. AMSDEN. Peabody Museum of Natural History, Bulletin 5; Yale University Press (London; Geoffrey Cumberlege), 1949. pp. viii + 126, with 30 figures and 34 plates. Price 40s.

Some forty pages are devoted to the stratigraphy of the Brownsport Formation and to its correlation, the remainder to specific description of the fauna. A general Niagaran age can be assigned, but closer correlation leads to the view that the Brownsport strata are unrepresented in the Niagaran succession of central and western New York. The proportion of new species described is high, particularly among corals and brachiopods, and a new genus of Tabulate coral (*Romingerella*) is proposed. The illustrations are well-reproduced and the thesis constitutes a notable addition to the faunal lists of the Niagaran.

O. M. B. B.