

coniferous wood there just like that at Stocklands, but no Ammonites. I would suggest to local geologists the advisability of a persistent search for the latter.

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NAMES FOR BRITISH ICE - SHEETS.

SIR,—To discuss fully the wide questions raised by Mr. Lamplugh's reply to my letter of last April would require far too much space, so I content myself with repeating that to propose a name for that which has not been proved to exist is, to say the least, premature. It is also objectionable, because so many persons cannot become familiar with a name without assuming that it implies the existence of a reality. As man is naturally prone to idolatry, which in the present age commonly takes the form of phrase-worship, I am sure that if the North Sea Ice-sheet passed without protest it would quickly materialize into a geological fact. I had no objection to using the term 'Scandinavian Ice-sheet,' because something of the kind must have existed in that country, yet I was careful to speak only of 'Caledonian ice.' So I cannot allow Mr. Lamplugh to smuggle in an East British Ice-sheet under the cover of any phrase in my letter. As for the late Glacial age of the Dogger Bank, that of course is possible; but I think whoever makes use of it as an argument should indicate under what circumstances such a long shoal-like mass of morainic matter was deposited in that position. Also, I should like to have an explanation of the causes which would lead to an exceptional precipitation of snow on any particular part of a comparatively level plain which had considerable land masses on three sides. My complaint against the school of glacialists to which Mr. Lamplugh belongs is, that they insist on those facts which seem to favour their ideas and ignore all which have the contrary effect. Thus, like the defenders of the Ptolemaic system of Astronomy, they support hypothesis by hypothesis, and invent epicycles to escape from difficulties. It is, however, a gain to have it admitted that boulders did not take an inside or outside passage on an ice-sheet the whole way from Scandinavia to Eastern England. This encourages me to hope that a course of sea-bathing early in the Glacial Epoch may embolden some geologists to repeat the process later in the same, and to extend southward the submergence which must have occurred then (*GEOL. MAG.*, 1877, p. 72, and 1900, p. 289) in a more northern region.

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CURIOUS BRECCIAS IN THE HIGHLANDS.

SIR,—There are in the Scottish Highlands between Loch Katrine and the upper part of Loch Lomond several bosses of diorite surrounded by brecciated schist. These are very curious, for each boss of diorite is surrounded by a narrow fringe of breccia consisting entirely of schist without any admixture of igneous matter. It seems to me that the diorite must have been forced up in a solid state through the schist, which in consequence got broken up; for had the diorite been in a molten state when it came up, some of it would surely have flowed among the fragments of schist.