

sions deposits may have been formed, resting upon the surface of the ice or else upon the ground itself, and in lakes dammed up by the ice; and currents, rapids, falls of water in and through the ice may tear the sand-and-gravel drift and till.

But the ice-sheet is constantly moving on towards a lower level; the accumulations or deposits on and in the ice must go along with it downwards and forwards to its termination to be finally heaped up as ridges, Åsar, along the course the whole has taken, down to the disappearance of the ice. Some of the åsar may have been formed in this way, and while the ice was retreating from a lower level or was melting away; but undoubtedly others were deposited in a different manner, for instance, as banks heaped up by the sea along ancient coast-lines. (See A. Erdmann, *Bidrag till kännedom om Sveriges quartära bildningar*, Stockholm, 1868, and *Atlas*, pp. 84–131; see also J. Geikie, *The Great Ice Age*, London, 1874, pp. 385–397.)

I cannot feel certain that the theory here advanced is a new one. So many geologists having studied these phenomena, many different interpretations of the subject are sure to have been made; but if my recollection serve me well, this may be a new one. But I would not omit to refer here to the theories of C. W. Pajjkull, of Mr. A. E. Törnebohm, and of H. v. Post, as well as that of Mr. A. Stoppani, *Corso di Geologia*, 1873, ii. 1195: “Gli antichi ghiacciai si gettarono attraverso i confluenti, arrestandone le acque, etc.”

RÖNNE ON BORNHOLM, DENMARK,
October 25, 1874.

M. JESPERSEN.

WATER SUPPLY AND “DIVINING RODS.”

SIR,—My friend Dr. S. Palmer, F.S.A., of Newbury, informs me that in sinking a well in “Bussock Camp,” at the north end of Snelsmore Common, on an outlier of Tertiary beds, about three miles north of Newbury, Berks, the diggers came upon a bed of fossil Oyster Shells at a depth of forty feet. This fact establishes the existence of the *Ostrea* band in the bottom bed of the Woolwich and Reading series further in that particular direction than previously known.

The search for water proved fruitless at that depth, and the well has been filled in. The “divining rod” had been here used by an “expert,” who had the reputation of having been most successful at Sandlesford, near Newbury! And this fact seems to prove a more southern and easterly extension of the ignorance of water-seekers than previously noticed in the remarks on this semi-superstitious and wholly ignorant procedure, either in the “Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists’ Society,” new series, vol. i. p. 60, etc., or the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, Vol. IX. p. 528. The case of the erratic “dowser,” met with by Mr. J. E. Taylor, on the London Clay in Essex (*ibid.* p. 576), certainly proves a still further extension of these conceits and impositions. Let us hope, however, that such easterly instances are evanescent outliers or ultimate attenuations of the old senseless practice.

T. RUPERT JONES.

YORKTOWN, Nov. 9, 1874.