

in connection with the later work of Dr. Vaughan in comparing the Ecuadorian section with that exposed in North-Western Peru. It is to be hoped that at some future date material may be available for the detailed correlation of this part of the world by means of smaller and larger foraminifera, but until this is possible the lithological studies of Dr. Bosworth and Dr. Sheppard will continue to be the standard works of reference.

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TAMPICO, MEXICO.  
27th July, 1937.

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#### SPRING PITS AND SANDSTONE PIPES.

SIR,—The recent account by Dr. R. W. Pocock (*Abstract Proc. Geol. Soc.*, 1937, p. 126) is of interest to me because these Cambrian pits remind me of the Sandstone Pipes in Carboniferous Limestone, described in the *Anglesey Memoir*, pp. 612–16 (also 631–2, 635–6), and shown in plates xxxviii, xxxix. The Carboniferous pipes, however, attain to considerably greater dimensions.

They have been found on five horizons, from the base of  $D_2$  to nearly the summit of  $D_2b$ , a thickness of some 700 feet. But they resemble the Cambrian pits in that, on none of these horizons are they likely to have been far from a coast.

On pp. 615–16 I discussed their probable causes, favouring (though with misgivings) the seismic theory of Professor Hobbs. The idea of such pits having been drilled by water from below is common to his suggestion and to that of Dr. Pocock. The new evidence seems to postulate only ordinary springs, so perhaps, in view of it, we can dispense with earthquakes. Yet the size of the Carboniferous pipes seems to require uncommon vigour in the springs that drilled them out.

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July, 1937.