

or not; but from an examination of several casts the former is probably the case.

Some other species of *Pentacrinus* have the joint faces ornamented with lines placed somewhat in a similar manner; as, for instance, the *Pentacrinus levigatus* of the St. Cassian beds (Laube, tab. viii. a, fig. 21), and joints are found in the greensand of Chute Farm, with ornamentation of the same kind; but in neither of these cases do the lines meet at such a decided angle between the leaves as in the Devonian specimens.

It will be seen that in the fossil sketched one of the leaves is imperfect.—I remain, &c.,

JOHN EDWARD LEE.

VILLA SYRACUSA, TORQUAY,
1st August, 1873.

ABSTRACTS OF GEOLOGICAL PAPERS.

SIR,—Any one who has occasion to follow the progress of Chemical Science will readily admit that his labour has been much lightened since the Chemical Society has introduced the plan of publishing monthly abstracts of the more important papers selected from both British and Foreign Journals. It occurs to me that this example, set by the Chemists, might be followed, with great advantage, by the Geologists. The Journal of the Geological Society, it is true, publishes the titles of a great number of papers bearing upon our Science; but a bald list of titles, even if it extend to a complete bibliography, can have but very limited value, and in many cases must be well-nigh useless. Nor would it suffice to follow each title by a notice limited to a few lines, as is done, for example, in the 'Verzeichniss der Anthropologischen Literatur,' which forms an excellent feature in the *Archiv für Anthropologie*. Such short notices have, of course, their measure of value, but would be scarcely full enough to fairly represent the progress of an important science like Geology. Even the publication of an annual volume, similar to *The Zoological Record*, to Delesse and De Lapparent's *Révue de Géologie*, or to Kennigott's *Uebersicht der Resultate Mineralogischer Forschungen*, would be far from satisfactory when compared with the admirable system adopted by the Chemical Society. By means of that system, the English chemist learns, as early as possible, what is going on in each department of his science, and is furnished with abstracts sufficiently full in most cases to put him in possession of the main points in each paper. This, or something akin to this, is just what the geologist needs. Perhaps the student who confines his attention to British Geology may not fully realize the want of such a work as that now advocated; but its value will assuredly be recognized by those who have occasion to spend much time in frequent reference to the Transactions of Foreign Societies. As the British Association deems the publication of the *Zoological Record* and of the Chemical Society's Abstracts sufficiently important to aid both these works by grants of money, it may be worth while considering—now that we are on the eve of the Bradford Meeting—whether Geology has not equal claims on the funds of the Association.

JERMYN STREET,
August 18, 1873.

F. W. RUDLER.