

I do not lay claim to any great originality for my little sketch, but, in fact, I did not derive my ideas from Dr. Irving's paper.

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HORACE W. MONCKTON.

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REPLY TO MR. A. SOMERVAIL.

SIR,—I owe an apology to Mr. Somervail for plucking a leaf from his coronet of laurels. It is the simple truth that the paper which he cites had not in any way impressed itself on my mind, and thus (as the index for the last volume was not then published) escaped recollection. While making this atonement, I will take the opportunity of explaining to him why I use that plainness of speech to which he evidently objects. If he is right in his principal hypothesis about the rocks of the Lizard, I am so hopelessly wrong that I must begin my petrological studies *de novo*. The one or the other of us, so to say, is ignorant of the very grammar of the language. Now, as it happens, I have given, for nearly twenty years, more attention to petrology than to any other branch of geology; twice or thrice every year I have visited districts which were known to be instructive, making often long journeys in order to study some critical question. I have examined many of the most interesting localities on the Continent of Europe, a few also in Canada. I have formed a very large collection of rock specimens and microscopic slides, to the study of which I have devoted such leisure as I can command. Now in Mr. Somervail's writings no evidence appears of either wide experience or knowledge of the microscope, both of which are necessary for theorizing on difficult problems in petrology; indeed, of the latter, not so long since, he admitted his ignorance. Of course I know that many of these problems are yet unsolved; I make no claim to infallibility; I am well aware that notwithstanding all my pains I have not escaped the fate of workers in a progressive science, and have to modify or even abandon conclusions which at one time seemed most accordant with facts, but some of Mr. Somervail's hypotheses appear to me irreconcilable with facts and inductions which, not only I, but also petrologists of greater repute, accept almost as axioms. To me he appears to occupy the position in which I should have placed myself had I signalized my entrance in the "fifth form" at school by publishing "adversaria" on a trilogy of Æschylus.

T. G. BONNEY.

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DYNAMO-METAMORPHISM.

SIR,—M. Spring's valuable experiments have had a very stimulating effect on many minds; so much so that his experiments are sometimes quoted in proof of positions very much in advance of those taken by M. Spring himself. Thus Mr. Harker in his letter on the subject of dynamo-metamorphism in your last issue, after remarking that "the practical verification" of "the *direct* correlation of mechanical and chemical energy" "rests on such experiments