

BORINGS OF *SAXICAVA* 300-450 FEET ABOVE THE SEA.

SIR,—During the earlier part of this month, when examining the rocks of Carleton Hill, six miles S.S.W. of Girvan, I discovered a number of *Saxicava* borings in the rock at from 300 to 450 feet above sea-level. The borings have been made into bits of limestone occurring in the igneous rocks of which this hill is mostly composed.

I know that the land-shell *Helix aspersa* gets the credit of being able to bore holes in limestone, but although I have known this snail for many years, I have never seen an instance of its having bored a hole; it congregates in clusters into ready-made crevices.

However, to return to the Carleton Hill borings, I pared away about two inches from the surface of one of the bits of limestone, and found the molluscan borings ramifying through the stone exactly in the manner in which they occur in limestone bored by *Saxicava* at the present day.

I know that no geologist will remove these ancient 'Nilometers,' although they may not escape the clutches of the mere 'specimen-hunter.'

The occurrence of borings in the rock of Carleton Hill is quite in keeping with the evidence afforded by the sea-shells obtained in the Ayrshire drift up to more than twice the height of 450 feet, a detailed description of which has been published by the Geological Society of Glasgow.¹

J. SMITH.

MONKREDDING, KILWINNING.
September 26, 1903.

SECTION OF THE THAMES ALLUVIUM IN BERMONDSEY.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to correct a misprint in the paper "On a Section of the Thames Alluvium in Bermondsey." In the section on p. 456 the top line is stated to be "sea-level"; this should be "street-level." The actual level of the street here is about 15 feet O.D.

S. HAZZLEDINE WARREN.

CONNAUGHT AVENUE, LOUGHTON, ESSEX.
October 14, 1903.

OBITUARY.

ALPHONSE FRANÇOIS RENARD.

BORN SEPTEMBER 26, 1842.

DIED JULY 9, 1903.

AMONG the geologists of the Continent there was probably none so widely known personally in this country as Professor Renard. Hence the announcement of his death has brought with it to us, not only regret for the loss which science has sustained, but sorrow for the premature decease of one who was familiar to a large circle as a pleasant companion and to not a few as a valued friend. He was born at Renaix, in Belgium, but, though a native of that country, he received his scientific training in Germany, if the writer's memory serves him, at the Jesuit seminary of the Abbey of Maria Laach, before that institution was dissolved. Not improbably the geological attractions of the volcanic district of the

¹ Transactions Geological Society of Glasgow, suppl. to vol. xi.