

a number of vents made their appearance and discharged a succession of fragmental materials, which differ from the yellow tuff in showing both macroscopically and microscopically a greater variety of composition, and in the proofs which they furnish of a succession of eruptions both in space and time and a gradual southward shifting and diminution of the vigour of the eruptive energy. The largest and most ancient of the volcanoes of this latest period is that of Agnano, the crater of which is built up of layers of pumice, ashes, lapilli, soft grey tuff, and beds of scoriæ. Not improbably it was from this eruptive centre that the trachy-andesitic lava of Caprara issued. Other volcanoes of the same series are Astroni, Solfatara, the two small vents of Cigliano and Campana behind the north-western slopes of Astroni, the last-named example showing three concentric rings, within the innermost of which a beautifully perfect little crater marks the last efforts of this vent. The crater-lake of Avernus belongs likewise to the latest group, and perhaps it was the water percolating from this basin to the thermal springs of Tripergole which, in September, 1538, gave rise to the explosion that built up Monte Nuovo, the youngest of the cones of the Phlegræan Fields.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BASE OF THE KEUPER IN SOUTH DEVON.

SIR,—In replying to Dr. Irving's article in your April number, I must preface the same by regretting my use of the term "dolomitic" which somehow crept in; but which, I think, hardly amounts to a "caricature" of his description. I would further add that I never doubted the existence of the fault at the Chit rock.

On the main issue I still hold that the Otterton Breccias are not again brought up on the east side of the river Sid; and that the beds here described as such, occupy a much higher horizon, being separated from the former by a considerable thickness of red sandstones. On this point, however, I am willing to wait—with an open mind—the results of other observers who may choose to devote their attention to this matter.

ALEX. SOMERVAIL.

TORQUAY N.H. SOCIETY.
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MARINE FOSSILS IN UPPER COAL-MEASURES.

SIR,—On the 23rd April I found in the Craigmark Burn, Dalmellington, Ayrshire, some marine shells in the Upper Coal-measures. They occur in a cliff on the right bank of the stream, about half a mile up from the village of Craigmark. The cliff is about 30 feet high, its upper part composed of dark shale, and its lower part of lighter-coloured shale with nodules and bands of 'curly' ironstone. About the middle of the cliff there is a 9 inch band of bituminous shale with fish-remains, and in the centre of it the marine band occurs.