

House, which, with its extensive winter promenade and spacious museum, was thrown open to a large company of visitors, to whom the members of the Association described Dr. Grindrod's palæontological treasures. Later in the evening, the Vicar of Malvern in the chair, geological addresses were delivered by Mr. M. Moggridge, F.G.S., of Mentone, and Mr. J. Logan Lobley, Hon. Sec.—Saturday, July 26.—On the morning of the concluding day the Geological Museum in Malvern College was inspected, and afterwards carriages were taken to the Herefordshire Beacon, which was ascended, and its southern extension traversed to Eastnor Park. A lane section, near the Somers Obelisk, of Upper Llandoverly, yielding *Ctenodonta Eastnori*, and *Lingulella parallela*, and *L. crumena*, occupied attention for some time; and then skirting Midsummer Hill, exposures of Holly Bush Sandstone and the "Black Shales" were reached and carefully examined. At a boss of igneous rock not far distant, the members took leave of their director, and cordially thanked him for his exertions for the success of the week's proceedings. During the evening the members departed from Malvern for their several homes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SARSEN STONES.

SIR,—I have just read the Rev. J. Adams's paper on "Sarsen Stones," and I think I can throw some light on their origin.

I had seen portions of "Grey Wethers" and of Stonehenge before I left England, and when I lived at St. Germain's I remarked in the Museum two whetstones for flint-weapons made of similar fawn-coloured siliceous sandstone. A similar stone is now quarried near the town, and in the quarry I found a detached mass of Pudding-stone, with nodules of flint three by two inches, larger, much larger than any I have seen in the English Pudding-stone. Between St. Germain's and Grignon, still within the forests, there is a most extensive quarry of the same stone, which is used, I believe, not only for road metal, but also for millstones, etc. It is there about eight feet thick, without fossils or any lines of stratification or deposit, but it is fissured at intervals perpendicularly, and it is by these fissures that it can be broken up. Its surface is embossed in the most extraordinary manner, or perhaps I should say hollowed out into pits of different depths from nine inches to two feet, the internal portions varying also in depth below the general level, but never running into each other, so that when I saw it, it was full of little pools of water.

I was unable to trace this massive rock in its relation to the Calcaire grossier; but at a short distance I found small blocks imbedded in loose sand of the same colour, containing *Cerithia* and other Grignon fossils, which I could not distinguish from the mass, and I believe it is from this bed that the shells in the Paris Seine gravel are derived, for similar shells from Calcaire grossier are usually only casts, and are too fragile to bear the friction of the gravel.

Lastly, I found in the raised beach at Brighton, a little piece which I think I showed to you, in comparison with a pebble of dark red sandstone you had obtained from the same deposit, and I mentioned that the one was too light and the other too dark to be the Grés de May, or Caradoc Hartshill, or Lickey Quartzite, or Sandstone.

Instead of returning home from Brighton, I went on to Selsea, and there on the shore I saw several large blocks of the same stone, so this proves that they lay above the London Clay.

This is quite different from the Chalk conglomerate which caps some of our Chalk hills here, and is evidently still in process of formation, by the agglutinating power of the oxide of iron so abundant above the Chalk.

I have never been at Fontainebleau, but I should consider, from its position above the Calcaire grossier, that the St. Germain stone is the same; but though I found the block of pudding-stone lying in the quarry, I never could learn whether it formed a continuous bed, though I asked Mons. Mortillet about it. The French querns are formed from a pudding-stone with small flints, just like the English querns, and are of the same size.

The bit of stone inclosed is from one of the small blocks. The smaller piece is from a Selsea block without fossils.

24, HYDE GARDENS, EASTBOURNE.

T. OGIER WARD.

PENTACRINUS PRISCUS, GOLDF., IN THE LOWER DEVONIAN, MEADFOOT SANDS, NEAR TORQUAY.

SIR,—A high authority in the geological world has said, with respect to the Crinoidea, "It is perfectly useless to do anything without the cups," and, probably, this ought to have deterred me from sending you the inclosed rough sketch of a fossil which is found, though somewhat rarely, in the Lower Devonian shales and grits of Meadfoot Sands, near Torquay. The sketch is magnified three diameters, and though only known to us hitherto in the shape of impressions, yet the characters are so very well marked, notwithstanding imperfect specimens hitherto found, that I am tempted to send you a notice of its occurrence, as it has, I believe, been hitherto undescribed from the English Devonian. It is apparently the *Pentacrinites priscus* of Goldfuss, plate liii. fig. 7 a b, and the specific characters he gives are very nearly the same as those of our specimens.



Column subpentagonal; joints either all of equal size, or alternately larger and smaller. The joint faces rather hollow, with a rosette of five oval leaves, rather pointed at the extremities (in the impression this rosette slightly projects). The radiating lines somewhat large, but few in number; those between the leaves meeting each other in angles, three or four between each pair of leaves; those towards the ends of the leaves going direct to the circumference of the joint.

These fossils have been found hitherto almost exclusively in sandy grit, not in limestone; and in nearly every case in the same beds with the *Pleurodictyum problematicum*. As they are only casts or impressions, it is difficult to say whether the joints alternate in size