

X.—BRIEF NOTICES.

1. THE HILS BASIN.—Dr. H. von Koenen discusses the disturbances of the Hils Basin in the *Jahresb. Niedersäch. geol. Ver. Hannover*, 1913. He describes it as “a basin due to compression, with uptilted margins, its interior being filled with essentially younger beds less strongly influenced by the pressure”.

2. WATERS OF KHARGA.—Mr. G. W. Grabham has published in the *Cairo Scientific Journal* (No. 61, vol. v, October, 1911) a paper dealing with the mechanics of wells, the choking of boreholes by deposition, and the exhaustion of strata. This is a reply to Mr. H. J. L. Beadnell's paper, and the whole discussion is interesting and instructive.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A SUPPOSED SUBMERGED FOREST IN SOUTH-WEST SCOTLAND.

SIR,—In your review of Mr. Clement Reid's book on submerged forests you cite the statement that in “Scotland the Neolithic deposits seem to be raised beaches instead of submerged forests”. There is what appears to be a submerged forest bed in a small creek called Brighthouse Bay, a little west of the estuary of the Dee on the coast of Galloway. It was incidentally noticed in a paper published by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1875. Some presumably large antlers of (red) deer were recorded as from the “submerged forest”. The district is outwardly much like that of South Devon, viz. with low-level beach-platforms, drowned valleys, and what seem to be submerged forest clays. The paper referred to is on the exploration of the Borness Cave, and the mention of the submerged forest is on p. 11 of the reprint. The late Mr. A. J. Corrie and myself were solely responsible for the geological part of the report, and we were guided by the South Devon raised beaches in our identification. It is quite possible we were mistaken. Perhaps some of our readers may be acquainted with Brighthouse Bay.

A. R. HUNT.

TORQUAY.

September 8, 1913.

NOTE ON THE NAME 'CHARMOUTHIAN'.

SIR,—D'Orbigny in 1852 divided the Lias into three stages which he called respectively the Sinemurian, the Liassian, and the Toarcian, and in 1864 Mayer-Eymar proposed the name 'Charmouthian' to take the place of d'Orbigny's Liassian. As pointed out by Mr. W. D. Lang in this Magazine (1912, p. 284), this middle stage of d'Orbigny and Mayer-Eymar included more than has usually been assigned to the Middle Lias in England. I am not now concerned with the grouping of the zones, but with the form of the name which has been adopted by most French geologists in preference to the Pliensbachian of Opel.

The name is, of course, taken from the little town of Charmouth in Dorset, near which the Middle Lias is well exposed in the cliffs, but it is unfortunate that Mayer-Eymar should have tried to latinize such a name as Charmouth without making any inquiry as to its ancient form. It is a recognized custom or rule that when such names are

derived from those of places or districts they are based on the Roman name if there was one, or on the earliest known form of the name.

I am informed by Dr. H. C. March, F.S.A., that Charmouth is generally believed to be the place called *Carrum* in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which records a battle fought there by King Egbricht against the Danes in A.D. 833, and this seems to be the earliest mention of the place, which was never a port of any importance. All the editors and commentators identify Carrum with Charmouth, and it is this ancient form of the name which should be taken as the basis of a stratigraphical term and not the uncouth modern name of Charmouth. I think, therefore, that if our French colleagues continue to use a name taken from this place they should substitute *Carrumian* for Charmouthian, on the same principle that we write Callovian, not Kellawayian; Bajocian, not Bayeuxian; and Cenomanian, not Lemansian.

PS.—Since the above was written and printed Mr. Lang has proposed the name '*Carixian*' for the lower part of the Charmouthian or Pliensbachian stage, accepting Bonarelli's name of *Domerian* for the upper part, and he derives this name from "the Carixa of Ravennas", which is cited in Roberts' *History of Lyme Regis* as the ancient name of Charmouth (see *Geol. Mag.*, September, 1913, pp. 401-12).

On this proposal I have several criticisms to offer. In the first place, Mr. Lang remarks that he has "already advocated the propriety of employing the term Charmouthian strictly with its original connotation", and yet he suggests as a new name for a part of this Charmouthian a term taken from what he accepts as the Latin name of the same place. Surely if Carixa was the Roman name for Charmouth it should be used as the basis for the name of the whole Charmouthian stage.

Secondly, the "Chorography of Ravennas" is not a very good authority; its author is really unknown and even the date of it is somewhat uncertain. Moreover, as Mr. Lang himself points out, the name Carixa is probably a latinization of the Celtic words *car-isca*, meaning the River Char, not the place. As a matter of fact, it is very doubtful whether there was any settlement at the mouth of the Char until the time of the wars between the Saxons and Danes.

Thirdly, we seem in danger of being saddled with too many of these latinized names. They are very useful as names for stages, but when it comes to introducing sub-stages with similar names I for one protest. The division of a system into two or more series, of a series into stages, and of a stage into any number of zones seems quite sufficient for practical purposes. The addition of sub-stages merely imposes an unnecessary burden upon the memory.

In England the stages of the Lias have hitherto been called Lower, Middle, and Upper. If it is thought more convenient to divide the series into four or five stages, let us have geographical names for them, but there is no good reason for burdening our nomenclature with a double set of such names.

A. J. JUKES-BROWNE.

TORQUAY.

September 8, 1913.