

geological books I have access to ; so the specific name of the *Hybodus* from our Carboniferous formations must for the present be in abeyance.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
April 24th, 1874.

W. J. BARKAS, L.R.C.P.L.

MAGISTER SCHMIDT ON THE SHIELDS OF *PTERASPIS* AND
SCAPHASPIS.¹

SIR,—I have just received, by the kindness of Herr Magister Schmidt, a paper by him entitled, "On Pteraspids in general, and on *Pteraspis Knerii* in particular," which, I dare say, may come to the notice of some of your readers. Herr Schmidt reiterates the view which I have previously discussed as to the nature of the shields for which I proposed the genus *Scaphaspis*. Let me again say here that *no evidence whatever* is adduced by Herr Schmidt in support of the notion that *Scaphaspis* is the ventral shield of *Pteraspis* and *Cyathaspis*. That such a connexion is a possibility, I do not mean to deny ; but with a very much larger number of specimens to study than Schmidt or Kunth have had, and with the same hypothesis present in my mind, I have been unable to find justification for its adoption.

With regard to the Galician *Pteraspis*, I have already stated in the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*,² after examining specimens from this locality in Vienna, I was led to doubt the specific distinctness of the *Pt. Knerii*. The Viennese specimens come very close indeed to *Pteraspis rostratus* and *Scaphaspis Lloydii*. The specimen of a disc now figured by Schmidt comes so close to that of *Pt. Crouchii* that it must probably be assigned to that species. Magister Schmidt is mistaken in assuming an *exclusive* association of *Pt. rostratus* with *Sc. rectus*. On this matter I should be glad if some of my friends at Ludlow and elsewhere in the Cornstone area would give their experience.

The asserted presence of bone-lacunæ in the Heterostraci certainly cannot be accepted on such evidence as that which Herr Schmidt adduces. Either his sections do not show definite bone-lacunæ or they have been very inadequately lithographed.

NAPLES, April 25th.

E. RAY LANKESTER.

¹ For Magister Schmidt's letters see *GEOL. MAG.* 1873, Vol. X. pp. 152 and 330.

² For Mr. Lankester's reply see *op. cit.* Vol. X. pp. 190 and 478.

COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM:—

Miss Alder, Messrs. J. Milne, W. J. Henwood, H. P. Malet, Robert Mallet, W. H. Hudleston, J. Wetherell, G. A. Lebour, E. B. Tawney, Dr. Barkas, Chas. W. Peach, Dr. O. G. Ward, A. H. Swinton, James Thomson, A. Gillett, J. W. Judd, Henry Johnson.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—It is particularly requested that all Communications intended for this Magazine may be addressed to the Editor, 142, St. Paul's Road, Camden Square, N.W. Books and Specimens may be addressed to the Editor, care of Messrs. Trübner & Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, E.C.