

A number of places where such sand is met with is given by these writers and others, but as no mention, as far as I am aware, is made of Skrinkle Haven, I thought it might be of sufficient interest to justify this note.

HARFORD J. LOWE, F.G.S.

TORQUAY.

SOUTH AFRICAN PETROGRAPHY.

SIR.—In my paper on the above subject in the August number I should like to point out two errors. Fig. 4 represents the diorite described immediately above it, and not, as stated, the granite referred to on p. 364. The other error, for which I am myself responsible, is in a reference to the melilite-bearing rock of the Spiegel River in Cape Colony (p. 366). This was discovered by Messrs. Rogers & Schwarz, of the Cape Geological Commission, and described by them in the report of that body for 1898, p. 62. Professor Cohen's description referred to is of a Transvaal rock of a similar character, and I cannot now account for having confused it with the other. My delay in correcting this slip is due to absence up country, during which I received no papers. F. P. MENNELL.

RHODESIA MUSEUM, BULAWAYO, 1902.

THE CRUMLIN METEORITE.

SIR.—In your issue for November, p. 521, you remark in regard to the meteoric stone that fell at Crumlin on September 13th, that "no one [in Ireland] thought it worth while to investigate what appeared to be a hoax." May I state, as I have already done in the *Irish Times*, that the first newspaper notice of the event appeared in the *Northern Whig* for Sept. 17th, when I was crossing to Scotland. This contained so clear an account that I never suspected the fall to be other than genuine, and at once commenced negotiations on behalf of the Museum in Dublin. Mr. Walker, the owner of the stone, although at the time unwell, replied promptly; but I was by then travelling in Scotland, and his letter was forwarded to me to an incorrect address. Consequently, I received it only on October 29th, and had heard long before that the stone had been, very naturally, secured for the British Museum. GRENVILLE A. J. COLE.

DUBLIN, Nov. 3rd, 1902.

FOSSILS OF THE OXFORD IRON-SANDS.

SIR.—As the fresh-water fossils of the Oxford Iron-sands are now so difficult to obtain, it is worth noting that during a traverse of the Lower Cretaceous outcrop which I made in June last I chanced to find a place where these fossils can be obtained in abundance, though not from rock actually *in situ*. The locality is Combe Wood, about half a mile south of Wheatley Station and five miles E.S.E. of Oxford. A low stone wall on the western side of the high road which flanks this wood on the west is in places built of thin, flaggy iron-grit crowded with the casts of *Unio*, *Cyrena*, *Paludina*, etc. The stone for this old wall must have been obtained in the immediate vicinity, probably from a small pit now

overgrown and concealed in the adjacent woodland. I found afterwards that most of the Iron-sand fossils preserved in the Geological Survey Museum at Jermyn Street, collected many years ago, are labelled "Combe Wood," and are in all respects like those which I obtained from the wall; they were probably got when the quarry was open. This flaggy iron-grit may possibly form part of the supposed Purbeck deposit of Combe Wood described by Fitton and mentioned by Professor Phillips, though more probably it has been obtained from the sands just above that horizon.

I was able to devote only a very short time to the examination of the material, but noticed that the fauna, though rich in individuals, was scanty in species. A more thorough investigation is, however, highly desirable, especially as the relation of this fresh-water fauna to the marine Lower Greensand stands in great need of elucidation.

G. W. LAMPLUGH.

BRIDLINGTON QUAY.

November 4th, 1902.

‘CALCRETE.’

SIR,—“Murder will out,” whether of person or language, and the appearance in the October number of the *Irish Naturalist* of a new word for which I am responsible makes requisite an open confession. The word is ‘calcrete,’ applied in this instance by a friend who has become accustomed to the term through our conversation, and has trustfully used it as a ‘good’ word in describing the shelly drift-gravels near Dublin. The indiscretion will be repeated, by my colleagues as well as myself, in the forthcoming new edition of the Geological Survey Memoir on the neighbourhood of Dublin, and preliminary explanation and definition seems therefore desirable. In the drifts around Dublin, as in most places where in like manner limestone-débris enters largely into the composition of the superficial deposits, the sand-and-gravel beds are often cemented sporadically into hard masses by solution and redeposition of lime through the agency of infiltrating waters. In order to indicate this condition on the field-maps a terse expression was sought to replace such long and awkward circumlocutions as ‘conglomerated gravel,’ ‘calcareous concreted gravel,’ etc., and for this purpose the abbreviation ‘calcrete’ was invented and found adequate. Other workers under similar conditions may find the word equally serviceable, and to them I therefore recommend it.

Moreover, I have the hardihood to suggest that the term might be complemented by equivalents,—‘silcrete,’ for sporadic masses in loose material of the ‘greywether’ type, indurated by a siliceous cement; and ‘ferricrete’ when the binding substance is an iron-oxide. I will grant that these terms are etymologically somewhat imperfect, but the inconvenience of an additional syllable would be a more weighty objection where expressive brevity is of prime consequence.

G. W. LAMPLUGH.

BRIDLINGTON QUAY.

November 4th, 1902.