

central water pellucid? And that this central pellucid water only was subjected to the "sudden drainage"? If so, in former times, the laws of rivers and lakes differed much from those of the present day. The cause supposed is an actual impossibility.

BROOKWOOD PARK, ALRESFORD,           GEORGE GREENWOOD, Colonel.  
9th September, 1871.

#### LOCAL MUSEUMS AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

SIR,—Why does not the British Association exert its influence in stimulating local Scientific Societies to form in their Museums collections representing the Geology, Mineralogy, and Natural History of their own respective neighbourhoods? Such a system, combined with a central Museum in London, would tend more than anything to the advancement of science. At present, provincial Museums are little better than curiosity shops, with no recognized plan of arrangement whatever. Numerous valuable private collections exist throughout the country, representing the geology, etc., of various localities, which are too often dispersed and lost. Perhaps private Collectors would show more public spirit, if greater zeal and better judgment were shown by local Societies.—F.G.S. (Brighton).

#### A SILICIFIED CORAL FROM THE COAST OF SUSSEX, ETC.

SIR,—Rolled fragments of a Silicified Coral, resembling the Tisbury *Isastræa*, are occasionally found on the coast of Sussex and the Isle of Wight. Major Barnes, of Southampton, who has for many years collected the south-coast agates, has found four specimens, one on the beach at Ryde, two at Sandown, and one at Hastings. I also obtained a fine specimen on the beach at Hove, near Brighton. The only locality from which they could have been drifted, if belonging to the Oolite, is Portland. Does the Tisbury Coral occur there? or, can they be derived from the Upper Greensand, like the silicified wood found at Hove?

SPENCER GEO. PERCEVAL.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

OCCURRENCE OF DIAMOND IN XANTHOPHYLLITE.—Writing from St. Petersburg to the Editor of the *Jahrbuch für Mineralogie*, 1871, part 3, Jeremejew announces the discovery of microscopic crystals of diamond in the xanthophyllite of the Schischimskiw mountains in the Urals. Magnified 30 diameters they are distinctly visible, and with a power of 200, their crystalline form can be determined with great precision. It is a hexakistetrahedron combined with a slightly developed tetrahedron, the faces of the first form being rounded, those of the latter completely flat. The greater part of the crystals are colourless and completely transparent, and some few are slightly brown. They lie in parallel position in the matrix, their trigonal intermediate axes being vertical to the foliation of the xanthophyllite. The green plates of the latter near the rounded aggregations of the talcose slate and serpentine, contain an unusually large number of crystals, and they are also found in these rocks themselves.