

paper "On the Forests of the Coal Period," in which he remarks that the plants "grew in extensive level plains. . . . The moist atmosphere (*not at all likely to have been charged with more carbonic acid gas than that of our own day*)<sup>1</sup> would encourage the growth of cellular parasites, etc." The second reference is to a paper by Dr. H. Woodward, "On Old Land Surfaces," in which, after quoting some remarks by Dr. Sterry Hunt to the effect that the atmosphere of the Coal period contained, as originally suggested by Brongniart, a "comparatively large amount of carbonic acid," he adds in a footnote, "Later experiments have, however, proved that plants, like animals, are at once poisoned by an excess of carbonic acid." Now the first reference appears to me only the expression of an opinion, and in the second, although experiments are mentioned, the reference is not given. I know of no such experiments, and if your reviewer or any of your correspondents can refer me to any, I shall feel very much obliged. The only experiments bearing on the subject, and which show that plants can live, flourish, and grow rapidly in an atmosphere with an excess of carbonic acid, I have quoted (p. 120), and I know of no others. Excuse the length of this letter, but I am anxious for information on this point, and should be glad of confirmation or otherwise on this subject, which is one of much theoretical interest.

DARENT-HULME, SHOREHAM, SEVENOAKS,  
10th April, 1888.

JOSEPH PRESTWICH.

#### SPURIOUS FLINT IMPLEMENTS.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space in the *GEOL. MAG.* to inform its readers who may be collectors of Flint Implements, that there are at the present time being manufactured in London worked flints, which are stated to be genuine, but which are nothing of the sort, and at the same time to say that some of these manufactured flints have been sold to gentlemen for a high price, who are considered authorities on the subject, and I trust that should any of my readers meet with such as appear doubtful they will use their best endeavours to expose and stop such a fraud.

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#### ALPINE RIVERS AND BUNTER PEBBLES.

SIR,—Prof. Bonney's paper on the "Rounding of Alpine Pebbles" is a valuable contribution to a chapter of physical geology; but there are one or two considerations to which I do not think he has given sufficient recognition. (1.) Weathering of *débris* on the mountain-sides, which often gives a certain initial rotundity to fragments of rocks. (2.) The scouring action of sand in a mountain river. So far as I can recall my own Alpine observations, I am inclined to think that where the coarser detritus is most completely rounded, so that the pebbly form is generally produced, it has been in cases where a large proportion of sandy detritus was present also. On the other hand, I have generally found that at the mouths of

<sup>1</sup> The Italics are mine.