

branch of inquiry which he has been pursuing for some years back. Since the publication of Zirkel's work on the microscopical structure of basalt, with figures and descriptions of the crystalline forms of sliced specimens of minerals, students have been placed at a great advantage as regards the augitic group of rocks. We are now much in need of similar hand-books of reference for diorites, diabasic rocks, felstones, and lavas, with their varieties. As Mr. Allport has, I believe, submitted several hundred specimens to examination, I feel sure he has the materials at hand for a valuable work.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE,
STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN, Nov. 8, 1871.

EDWARD HULL.

SILICIFIED CORAL ON THE COAST OF SUSSEX, ETC.

SIR,—The specimens of silicified wood occurring on the beach at Hove, near Brighton, are, no doubt, derived from the Upper Greensand, and will at once be recognized by those familiar with that occurring on the coast near Axmouth, in South Devon.

The semi-chalcedonic chert composing the specimens of silicified coral is more characteristic of the Upper Greensand than the Oolite; that found at Hove exhibits a boring lined with chalcedony, such as may be seen in the Greensand silicified wood. Their greater abundance at Sandown than elsewhere, in which neighbourhood the Greensand is exposed, would be corroborative of such an origin; though specifically they would be assigned to the Oolite. The specimens I have seen vary in quality, and would appear to be derived from distinct localities. I have seen numberless specimens of the Tisbury coral in collections at Salisbury and elsewhere, so am able to judge of the comparative appearance of the specimens.

November 13th, 1871.

S. G. PERCEVAL.

MISCELLANEOUS.

COAL DISCOVERY.—An important discovery of coal has been made at Halesowen, a village on the East Worcestershire side of the Black Country, and within a few miles of Birmingham. Mr. J. S. Dawes has been sinking trial shafts and exploring in this neighbourhood for the last seven years and at length, after an expenditure of £20,000, his enterprise has been rewarded by the discovery of a seam of coal, 14 feet thick and of excellent quality. It is believed, from the position and general features of the measure, that its thickness will be found to increase as the work progresses. Enough has, however, already been proved to controvert the theories hitherto held as to the boundary of the coal-field in this direction, and the impending exhaustion of the Black Country fuel supply. The coal lies at a depth of about 420 yards, a headway of 1,005 yards having been driven from the bottom of one of the trial shafts. Mr. Dawes intends to continue his lateral excavations 1,000 yards further, through the property of Lord Lyttelton.—*The Times*, 24th November.

ERRATA.—Page 505, last line, for "H. B. W." read "H. W. B." Page 501, line 22 from top, for "bends" read "bend."