

SIR,

“*Basket of eggs*” topography*

Charles Smith (1715?-62) was the author of surveys of various Irish counties, and in his book entitled *The ancient and present state of the County of Down*, first published in Dublin in 1744, he described (p. 36) the famed drumlin topography of County Down in the following terms:

“The whole County is remarkable for a Number of small Hills, which are compared with wooden Bowls inverted, or Eggs set in Salt; and from thence it is said to have taken the Name of Down, which signifies a hilly Situation”.

Smith was thus perhaps the earliest writer to draw an analogy between a drumlin swarm and the appearance of eggs laid out in a container.

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* The drumlin topography of County Down has also been referred to as “sack of potatoes” topography by other writers.—*Ed.*