

brought from localities now known, and that there is still great uncertainty as to the original signification of the Hebrew and Greek names. Most of the specimens were precious stones brought from other lands. The amethyst, beryl, sardonyx, emerald, and agate can be identified. The sapphire appears to have been lapis lazuli. It is doubtful whether the diamond was known when the precious stones in the breastplate of the High Priest were enumerated. Alabaster was an onyx-marble (calcium carbonate), and the material termed brass was generally bronze.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### DREIKANTER.

SIR,—Permit me to apologize without delay to Mr. Grabham for having suggested that he was wrong in writing 'a dreikanter'. Whether I was myself in the wrong is another matter. Before venturing on any allusion to other writers I looked the word up, and if I was wrong after all, that fact only strengthens my argument. Surely my point is clear. What I object to is the use of foreign words instead of English ones, especially when accompanied by an alteration in their meaning. The fact that some of us occasionally fall into error in using such words was mentioned incidentally as an additional reason for avoiding them.

Perhaps I should add that I am not responsible for the terms 'tripyramidal' and 'triquetral': they have often been used to express the form of true 'Dreikanter', and those who wish to use that term for faceted pebbles of other shape may be recommended to read Professor J. W. Gregory's address on "The Scientific Misappropriation of Popular Terms" reported in to-day's *Times*.

September 2, 1911.

F. A. BATHER.

P.S.—In his "Observations on the Magdalen Islands" (Bull. New York State Museum, 149) just to hand, that excellent German scholar, Dr. J. M. Clarke, twice uses yet another variant, namely 'dreikantner'.

September 23, 1911.

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### FORMATION OF LATERITE.

SIR,—After I forwarded to you Part II, "Microscopical Evidence," of my note on the "Formation of a Laterite from a practically Quartz-free Diabase", which was published in the August number of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, pp. 353-6, I received from Messrs. Voigt and Hochgesang specially prepared sections cutting through both the diabase and its inner layer of laterite at their junctions.

The following is a short account of the contact between the diabase and its laterite crust:—

Nearing the margin of the undecomposed rock many of the cleavages and the lines of chemical weakness in the plates and prisms of felspar are seen to be filled with films of limonite and are bordered with minute scales of gibbsite.