

depend upon the supply of snow, and eventually the deep channel might be filled with ice to the bottom.—Yours truly,

R. M. DEELEY.

MELBOURNE HOUSE, OSMASTON ROAD, DERBY.

January 11, 1909.

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PEARL FROM THE CHALK.

SIR,—The interesting notice of Mr. Newton's paper on Chalk Pearls in your January number recalled to my memory that I still possessed the original pearl from which Mr. B. B. Woodward's section was cut. Singularly enough the circumstance had entirely escaped the memory of both of us until your notice referred me to Mr. Newton's figure and allowed me to recognize the section and the pearl as one and the same specimen. Following Mr. Woodward's example I have had the pleasure of presenting the larger half of the pearl to the British Museum (Natural History), so they can in future be inspected in the Geological Department.

G. E. DIBLEY.

46, BURGHILL ROAD, SYDENHAM, S.E.

January 13, 1909.

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FLINTS IN THE DRIFT.

SIR,—I am delighted to learn from Dr. Bather's note in your January issue (p. 47) that flints are as abundant in Denmark as in East Anglia, and doubtless the prehistoric Danes made their implements from their own chalk-flints. If the word 'pink' is inserted before the word 'flint' in line 9 of my previous letter (see *GEOL. MAG.*, 1908, p. 575), it will, I think, be in order. In the *Trans. Hull Geol. Soc.*, 1902 (vol. v, pt. ii, p. 31), Mr. J. W. Stather writes:—"Following Mr. C. Reid's surmise in the Holderness Memoir, we have become accustomed to regard Denmark as the source of the *pink* flints, common in the Boulder clays of Holderness. This is an error, as Mr. A. Jessen, of the Danish Geological Survey, recently informed the secretary that *pink* flints do not occur either in the Cretaceous Rocks or the drifts of Denmark, and are quite unknown there."

T. SHEPPARD.

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THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—Though I have never had the pleasure of hearing a discussion at the Geological Society, and do not know how closely the views expressed there in full agree with the brief report subsequently given, I should be glad if I might be allowed to make a suggestion.

The publication of the discussion in the proceedings adds considerably to the interest of papers to Fellows who, like myself, are unable to attend the meetings. But the question I wish to ask is whether their usefulness does not stop at this point? There are, of course, cases when a paper deals with a subject closely studied by those present, and when even criticisms that are hastily composed may have a value. There are other cases when the subject-matter