

PLATYHARPES WHITTINGTON, 1950, A SYNONYM OF *HIBBERTIA*
JONES AND WOODWARD, 1898

SIR,—In my recent (1950) monograph of the British Trilobites of the family Harpidae I erected a new genus, *Platyharpes*, the genotype being *Harpes flanaganni* Portlock, 1843. In 1898 (pl. xxv, figs. 8a, 8b) Jones and Woodward published pictures of a supposed new crustacean genus and species, *Hibbertia orbicularis*, believed to be from the Lower Carboniferous of Scotland. The description was published in the following year (Jones and Woodward, 1899a, 390–393, pl. xv, fig. 4; 1899, 205–8). Withers (1929) recognized that the specimen upon which *Hibbertia orbicularis* was founded was not a crustacean, but should be referred to the Middle Ordovician trilobite *Harpes flanaganni* Portlock, and that it probably came from the type locality in Northern Ireland and not from Scotland. I have examined the specimen and expressed agreement with Withers' conclusions (Whittington, 1950, p. 36). Withers also stated that *Hibbertia* should become a synonym of *Harpes* Goldfuss, 1839. When I selected *Harpes flanaganni* as the type of a new genus I should not have made the new name *Platyharpes* but revived *Hibbertia*, since the genotype is the same. In stating that *Platyharpes* is a synonym of *Hibbertia* it should be pointed out that this synonymy is subjective, since the specimen upon which Jones and Woodward founded their genus is not the diplotype, i.e. the lectotype of *Hibbertia flanaganni* (Portlock, 1843).

H. B. WHITTINGTON.

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY,
HARVARD COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

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WHITTINGTON, H. B., 1950. A Monograph of the British Trilobites of the Family Harpidae. *Palaeontographical Soc.*, London.
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CHALK ROCK OF DORSET—MORE EVIDENCE OF SALT ?

SIR,—With reference to Mr. J. A. Robbie's interesting account of Turonian chalk at Winterbourne Abbas containing Albian and Cenomanian pebbles,¹ an alternative source of the coarse material may be suggested.

During 1948 we observed that the almost circular anticlinal inlier of Jurassic rocks at Compton Valence, 1½ miles north-west of Winterbourne, differed markedly from other south-country anticlines in pattern and might well be due to a non-emergent salt plug. In view of the salt-bearing marl proved in the Keuper of the Puriton borehole, 33 miles further north-west, this suggestion is not unreasonable. It will be recalled that G. M. Lees and P. T. Cox have already expressed the view that the tectonics of South Dorset are most readily explicable by the presence of a plastic series at depth.

Preliminary field examination confirmed that the sharply upturned dips recorded by H.M. Geological Survey in the Upper Greensand and Chalk near the Jurassic contact could have been produced by diapiric movement. It also showed that there was little hope of adding to data on the Jurassic (known only to be in part selenitic clay, presumed Oxfordian) without deep pitting or boring.

Through the courtesy of the landowner, Mr. W. D. Chick, the D'Arcy

¹ *Geol. Mag.*, lxxxvii, 1950, 209–213.