

CORRESPONDENCE

THE DENT LINE IN LANCASHIRE

SIR,—The recent announcement (von Estorff, 1950, p. 1448) that the deep test on the Lancashire coast, 2½ miles west of the earlier one at Formby, has revealed the Carboniferous to lie nearly 4,000 feet structurally higher in the new boring than in the old, seems to support my view (Turner, 1949, p. 295) that the Dent Line passes southwards through the Formby area beneath the New Red cover. Mr. H. R. Lovely (1950, p. 541) on behalf of Mr. P. H. N. White, appears to agree that gravity results are not irreconcilable with this view. He appears troubled, however, by the necessity of a rather sharp bend southwards of the Dent Line to reach Formby. Such bends, nevertheless, are present elsewhere in the Line, notably in the Stainmore country and where the Line crosses the Craven Faults. The hypothesis of the Line's continuation into South-West Lancashire seems to relate the fascinating results of the deep tests to the broader scheme of Variscan tectonics in Northern England in an intelligible fashion.

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REFERENCES

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- TURNER, J. S., 1949. The Deeper Structure of Central and Northern England. *Proc. Yorks. Geol. Soc.*, xxvii, p. 280.
- VON ESTORFF, F. E., 1950. Petroleum Developments in Europe in 1949. *Bull. Amer. Assoc. Pet. Geol.*, xxxiv, p. 1429.

RED SEA RIFTING

SIR,—It is all too seldom that geologists associated with oil exploration lift a corner of the curtain of secrecy and from their hoard of scientific information cast out a few crumbs to the waiting academic sparrows. Professor Tromp's paper (*Geol. Mag.*, Nov.–Dec., 1950, p. 385) is therefore welcome, especially now that Professor Gregory's book is thirty years old. But what a strange list of references: seven Tromps, two Germans, and an American, the last three only for publications of a purely general nature. The reader would hardly realize that British, Egyptian, and French geologists have been working on these problems for fifty years, and between them long ago produced a picture which any amount of drilling can merely touch up.

After reading Professor Tromp's paper I turned to such few works by members of the Geological Survey of Egypt as are readily to hand on my own shelves and found, as I thought, that nearly every point made in the first three parts of the paper (not the fourth, purely speculative part) is to be found there, published from twenty-five to fifty years ago. For instance:—

1. Progressive transgression from the north during the Mesozoic and Lower Eocene "(Tromp, 1950)". This was clearly enunciated by Hume, 1916 (Oilfields Region Memoir, p. 52), and is obvious from Hume's work over fifty years.

2. Doming and faulting with consequent unconformable overstep of the Middle Eocene across denuded Cretaceous in the north. How can the author put "Tromp, 1949" against this? Has he never walked over the Abu Roash dome and especially the Jeran el Ful ridge with Beadnell's splendid memoir of 1902, where the Middle Eocene unconformity is set out so clearly in text, sections, and map?

3. Northward recession of the sea after the Oligocene and northward migration of facies "(Tromp, 1950)". This was clearly stated by Beadnell