

CORRESPONDENCE.

OFFASTER PILULA.

SIR,—Mr. Sherborn is right as to the unfortunate slip in the recently published Memoir on the Geology of Southampton. Having Dr. Barrois' book open before me when I wrote the paragraph, I seem to have forgotten for the moment the more recent authorities. Elsewhere I have correctly referred the highest Chalk in that neighbourhood to the zone of *Actinocamax quadratus*.

CLEMENT REID.

October 8th, 1902.

LAKES OF SNOWDONIA.

SIR,—In my letter which appeared in the September number of your Magazine (p. 430, line 16 from top of letter) is an erratum which destroys the significance of the sentence. For 'sunny' read 'snowy.'

J. E. MARR.

CAMBRIDGE, October 9th, 1902.

RIVER DEVELOPMENT.

SIR,—Because I frankly admitted that statements in my paper in *Natural Science*, vol. xiv, 1899, might be termed "mere speculation," giving as the reason that the maps which we can obtain do not supply sufficient information for the precise study required, Mr. Strahan thinks he was justified in characterizing my work as "transgressing the limits of legitimate speculation." Yet he had just admitted not having seen the paper in *Natural Science* when he made that remark.

There is all the difference between my admission and Mr. Strahan's remark. Any theory is a speculation. I gave the grounds on which the theory was based; and I followed out the logical conclusions. The basis of the theory is that the original rivers flowed with the dip. As the general dip of the area in question is from north-west to south-east, that involves an original river-system such as was depicted in my map. Strong evidence in favour of the theory is found in the peculiar course of the tributaries on the left bank of the Severn, and in the breaches of the Cotteswold escarpment.

It is difficult to admit that in a country of simple structure such as the Cotteswolds, a Chalk anticline and all that it involves could be masked.

As to the indefinite westerly rise of the Chalk, is it so very great? The rise of the Colitic surface on which the Chalk could have rested is about 800 feet in 25 miles. Having regard to the thickness of the Chalk and the extent of its outcrop, can its rise be much more than this?

One word about the Moreton anticline. I described an anticline there, formed and covered over again in Inferior Oolite time. We

need not suppose this was *the only* anticline. On the principle of "successive movements along the same line of weakness," there were probably several successive upheavals along the line of the Moreton Valley. One such upheaval may have been post-Cretaceous, only the axis of such anticlines runs north and south.

S. S. BUCKMAN.

---

MISCELLANEOUS.

---

RETIREMENT OF MR. FREDERICK WILLIAM RUDLER, F.G.S.

To those at all well acquainted with the geological, mineralogical, and mining worlds of London, no name or presence is more familiar at meetings of scientific men, or as a lecturer and speaker, than that of Mr. F. W. Rudler, the eminent Curator of the Museum of Practical Geology at the Geological Survey in Jermyn Street, S.W.

Mr. F. W. Rudler (who retired September 30th) has filled the post of Curator and Librarian to the Museum of Practical Geology since the death of Mr. Trenham Reeks in 1879. Prior to this Mr. Rudler was for three years Professor of Natural Science in the newly-formed University College at Aberystwith, a post which he relinquished at the urgent request of the late Sir A. C. Ramsay, in order to take up the Curatorship of the Jermyn Street Museum. In earlier years, from 1860 to 1876, Mr. Rudler was Assistant Curator, and during this period he prepared new editions of the Descriptive Guide to the Museum, and also of the Catalogue of Pottery and Porcelain, works which are full of expert knowledge.

As a lecturer and public speaker Mr. Rudler is widely appreciated on account of his clear and admirable exposition of whatever scientific subject he undertakes to discourse upon, and we trust that in this respect his career may long continue. As a referee on all matters within his wide domain, he has been unequalled. Like Monsieur Houdin's wonderful bottle, no matter upon what particular subject one may require his assistance, his sources of knowledge have proved both varied and unfailing and have only been equalled by the readiness, the excessive kindness and amiability with which he at once has imparted his knowledge to all. As Treasurer of the International Geological Congress (London) in 1888, his energy, ability, and tact contributed largely to render that meeting memorable. Mr. Rudler has been for long a writer for the *Athenæum* and other journals, and is one of the best-informed men on all branches of scientific literature, while having a special knowledge of mineralogy, anthropology, and ceramic art. His absence from his accustomed study in the Museum at Jermyn Street will long be keenly felt by those who have been privileged to know and consult him. He will be succeeded by Mr. J. Allen Howe, B.Sc., whose training at the Royal College of Science and subsequent work on the Geological Survey well qualify him for the arduous post to which he has been appointed.