

prior to the deposition of any of the gravel or 'loess' now to be seen there"), he floods the valley "eighty feet above the present level of the Somme." These prodigious bodies of water do not in the least erode the soft chalk sides, or the bed of the valley, but, on the contrary, they deposit the gravel terraces as their high-water mark. Flints, therefore, in the pluvial period must have been lighter than water, and must have floated on the surface to their present position. In periods other than the pluvial one drift is driven along the beds of rivers and valleys. And these terraces of the Somme have been the beds of the river or valley, as I have had the honour to state in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for May, 1867.

BROOKWOOD PARK, ALRESFORD.

GEORGE GREENWOOD, Colonel.

#### CYCLOPHYLLUM FUNGITES.

SIR,—In the last number of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, Dr. Duncan made some remarks upon a statement of mine which appeared in your Magazine for March, 1868. I beg now to offer a few words of explanation.

Dr. Duncan writes, "Mr. Young also appears to have stated that David Ure was the original discoverer of the genus in question, and that Prof. M'Coy had clearly delineated the various parts constituting the internal organization of this coral; to these statements I must give my unqualified contradiction."

In my remarks I only wished to imply that David Ure was the original discoverer of the species of coral upon which Dr. Duncan's new genus was founded, *not* the discoverer or author of the various generic and specific names that have since been applied to it.

As to whether Prof. M'Coy has or has not delineated in his figures and description all the essential points in the internal organization of this coral, or whether Dr. Duncan is warranted in establishing new generic characters upon the points which he says he was the first to discover, this I will leave to the decision of those palæontologists who are better able than I am to decide in this matter. The parts of this coral upon which Dr. Duncan founds his generic distinctions, were not, I think, so entirely unknown to Prof. M'Coy, as Dr. Duncan's remarks would imply. With him, however, they did not constitute points of generic distinction, but only served, as he states, to characterise a well-marked species.

I was induced to make those remarks to which Dr. Duncan has seen fit to reply, from being present at a meeting of the Geological Society of Glasgow, on the 18th of April, 1867, when Mr. James Thomson exhibited a coral, which he asserted to be new to science (I will not say that he did this with Dr. Duncan's consent). I had not then seen Messrs. Duncan and Thomson's joint-paper on *Cyclophyllum fungites*, but I stated in my remarks that I believed it was founded upon the species of coral first discovered by David Ure, and figured by him in his book as a *Fungites* in the year 1793, but which had subsequently received new generic and specific names from Fleming, M'Coy, and Milne-Edwards.

Since then Mr. Thomson has obtained the loan of Ure's original specimen from the collection of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, has had it cut and polished; and has thus proved that *Cyclophyllum fungites* of Duncan and Thomson is Ure's *Fungites*; the point for which I have all along contended.

JOHN YOUNG.

HUNTERIAN MUSEUM, COLLEGE, GLASGOW,  
April 8th, 1868.

#### FISH-REMAINS IN THE LOWER DEVONIAN OF SOUTH DEVON AND CORNWALL.

SIR,—Mr. Salter, in going over my late son's collection, has made a somewhat important discovery, which he has requested me to communicate to you.

There has been so much doubt thrown upon the specimens identified with fish remains in Devonian rocks, whilst they are known to swarm in the Old Red sandstone, that every communication on the subject is of some importance.

It will be remembered that many supposed remains of fish from the slate rocks of Polperro, in Cornwall, were identified by Professor M'Coy with the Sponges. On this new form of sponge he bestowed the name *Steganodictyum*, describing it as a reticular layer overlaid by a striated coat. Some specimens of this are in my late son's collection. But with them is a large and well preserved plate, six inches long, which evidently belongs to a species of *Pteraspis*.

Of course, only the usual nuchal plate is preserved; but the markings on this are so perfect as to render it almost impossible to mistake the nature of the fossil. The closely-set sinuous grooves, occasionally interrupted, and disposed in concentric fashion over the whole plate, are rather closer together than in the ordinary species of *Pteraspis* from the Cornstone rocks. The species is undoubtedly new to Britain, although Mr. Salter has not, at present, the means of comparing it with the one described by Roemer from the Lower Devonian of Germany.

The point of interest is, of course, the finding a Lower Old Red Sandstone fish in Lower Devonian rocks in our own country. It also throws doubts upon the relationship of *Steganodictyum* to the sponges, inasmuch as this fossil shows cells like those of that genus immediately beneath the striated coat, whilst specimens of *Steganodictyum*, also in this collection, show the internal layer of the fish-plate with the cellular layer above it.

I only wish to draw attention to this fact. Mr. Salter will probably send you a fuller description than is contained in these few notes; but he thinks that no time should be lost in making the fact known.

E. WYATT-EDGELL.

2, LANSDOWNE PLACE, LADBROKE SQUARE, W.,  
11th April, 1868.

Having—together with Mr. E. Ray Lankester—examined the late Mr. Wyatt-Edgell's specimens of the so-called *Steganodictyum Cornubicum* and also the cephalic plate of *Pteraspis*, from Mudstone Bay, South Devon, and compared them with Roemer's type-specimens of