

wanting (as in nearly every borehole north of the Tees); (2) the Salt-rock is absent and the Red Marl overlying its horizon is not 'rotten marl' but compact; (3) the Magnesian Limestone (299 feet) is the thinnest complete section in County Durham; (4) no coal is found; (5) the Yoredale Rocks are represented by $336\frac{1}{2}$ feet of grey sandstones and encrinital limestones, carbonaceous shales, ironstone nodules and carbonaceous sandstones.

An Appendix, containing full details of the two vertical sections, accompanies the paper.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CONCRETIONS.

SIR,—Is not carbonic acid evolved from decaying organisms? If lime were present in the water in which such decomposition were taking place, would not the acid combine with the base to form a carbonate of lime?

Would not the precipitation of this salt first take place immediately around the organic nucleus, and form a covering which would enclose the decomposing matter? This covering would not only retard future chemical action, but would confine it to a much narrower limit, viz. the centre of the embryonic concretion.

But as the decomposition of the organic matter would not necessarily at this stage be arrested, would not the CO_2 gradually ooze through the thin crust, and the chemical action continue, though more slowly, as before, causing a gradual thickening of the concretion through external precipitation.

The greater the distance from the nucleus, the weaker would this action become, and the concretion would finally reach a point at which—owing either to a failure in the supply of the CO_2 , or the inability of the same to penetrate the increased thickness of CaCO_3 —it would cease to grow.

Would not this theory account for the formation of *Sphaosiderites*, and other nodules containing organic nuclei? Would it not also explain why these so often increase in hardness towards their centres?

C. C. W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

YORK MUSEUM.—We learn from York that the late Mr. William Reed, F.G.S., whose obituary notice we published in our June Number (p. 283), has most generously bequeathed to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society the sum of £600 the interest of which is to be expended on the Museum which has already been so greatly enriched by the various donations of collections presented by Mr. Reed in past years.