

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWQUAY: FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER.

SIR,—Revisiting Newquay this summer after an interval of fifteen years, I found the sections which were described in the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* (1907, p. 10 *et seqq.*) so much changed that a note to that effect seems called for. No one now visiting the place could see or recognize the features then visible. To begin with sand has accumulated to such an extent in Fistral Bay that the 10 feet of killas formerly visible all round the little bay, is, save at the southern end, all concealed and instead of low cliffs only sand slopes exist. The miniature arched rock of indurated sand in Nun Cove is broken through, only the two side pillars remaining, while the seaward one has been slightly displaced.

The fallen material at the base of the little cliffs under the Headland Hotel being no longer removed by the sea the upper portions have simply crumbled down, obscuring the sections, and only in two small places was the *Helix nemoralis* zone properly recognizable. The two cooking sites and the hut platform have quite disappeared, and other sections not immediately next the sea are overgrown. Only on the west side of the Headland itself where the heavy surf beats in rough weather, was erosion obvious.

Perhaps this may be a fitting opportunity to put on record a pregnant suggestion which I received from Col. Godwin-Austen, namely, that the layers of mussel shells in the dunes might be accounted for otherwise than I suggested. The theory propounded in my paper was that in times of dearth of other food the mussels had been carried up by gulls and crows to devour their contents at leisure. The Colonel's hypothesis was that when very severe frost coincided with low tide, the molluscs would be killed off wholesale, and the empty shells thus released in quantities would be borne landwards periodically in subsequent gales.

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