

magma) is far more indicative of formation by water, and is not usual in pegmatites, so far as I know them; if, indeed, all these are igneous rocks. Mr. Lomas, however, may reply that he does not assert all quartz veins, even if including felspar and mica, to be igneous, but only that at Foxdale. But if so, we may fairly ask him to tell us how to distinguish igneous from aqueous veins. The former, when they cut through sedimentary rock, especially if it be argillaceous, generally produce rather conspicuous structural and mineral changes, so that here I expected Mr. Lomas to give a careful description of the contact-metamorphism or to offer an explanation of its absence. Instead of this I find only the vague phrase 'altered slate'—a phrase compatible with slight silicification or other changes such as may take place by ordinary infiltration, and thus be no help to his hypothesis. I do not deny that differentiation might possibly be carried so far in an ordinary acid magma as to leave a residuum of pure or nearly pure silica (though I have never met with an instance of it), but I think it more probable that, as Mr. Lomas substitutes at critical points vague phrases and inconsequent statements for precise description, he has yielded to the fascination of a novel hypothesis.

P.S.—The above was written before the publication of Mr. Harker's letter (p. 95).
T. G. BONNEY.

THE ORIGIN OF QUARTZ-VEINS.

SIR,—In connection with the question of the origin of certain quartz-veins,¹ the fact that quartz reveals plastic qualities at temperatures considerably below the melting-points of many undoubted igneous minerals must be born in mind. J. JOLY.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.
February 9th, 1903.

NEW GEOLOGICAL TERMS AND FALSE ETYMOLOGY.

SIR,—As no one seems inclined to protest against the terms 'calcrete' and 'silcrete' with which Mr. Lamplugh proposes (in your December number²) to disfigure geological nomenclature, I must even raise a voice in the desert. Brief expressions for what he intends them to convey would doubtless be useful, and no one would be likely to quarrel with 'calcicrete' and 'silicicrete,' of which one would be two, the other three, letters longer. I admit that public convenience may sometimes prevail over strict etymological rules, as in preferring the inaccurate 'telegram' to 'telegrapheme'; but 'calcrete' and 'silcrete' are even worse than the fashionable mongrel 'penepplain,' and approximate in malformation to the hideous 'phenocryst,' which seems invented to signalize the divorce of geology from culture.
T. G. BONNEY.

THE DEHYDRATION OF LATERITE.

SIR,—The very interesting paper on "The Constitution of Laterite," by Mr. T. H. Holland, appearing in your issue for February, 1903, raises several questions of chemical physics which

¹ See Mr. J. Lomas's article, *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, January Number, p. 34, and Mr. Alfred Harker's letter, February Number, p. 95.

² *GEOL. MAG.*, December, 1902, p. 575.