the base of the Edge coals of Midlothian. These coals may therefore exist beneath the sea under conditions which will enable them to be worked at some future time.

But the most striking addition to our knowledge of the Carboniferous rocks of Scotland is that furnished by Mr. Kidston's examination of a large suite of plants from the Canonbie Coalfield, in the collection of which he was assisted by Mr. Macconochie. This proves that Upper, Middle, and Lower Coal-measures are here present. According to Mr. Kidston the highest measures are on the horizon of the Radstock Beds, an horizon which is higher than any reached in the midland or northern coalfield so far as is at present known.

The Permian and Trias, the Jurassic and Tertiary deposits have also received attention during the past year, but we cannot now dwell with greater detail on the Summary before us, which deserves to be more fully studied by all who take an interest in the progress of geology in the British Isles.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMENTS ON A COMMENTATOR.

Sir,—As my name has been made prominent in more than one part of the last number of the Geological Magazine, permit me to say that I see no reason to modify what I said (1895, p. 75) about the Budleigh Salterton pebbles, and cannot admit that Mr. Shrubsole is right in asserting the oblate spheroidal form to have been acquired by rolling on the beach. To this point I paid particular attention, with what result may be seen in the following extract from my diary. After some notes on size, form, and colour, it goes on—"I think these peculiar, almost semicircular ellipsoids are rather commoner on the beach than in the cliffs, perhaps due to their being a little more worn and selected. Nevertheless, they are generally the dominant form in the sections, but are less conspicuous from being half buried." This flattened form could not be acquired by wave-action alone, but must be initiated by a certain original 'slabbiness' in the rock from which the pebbles have been derived. A parallel to this may be found in the flattened chalk pebbles on the beach in the Bridlington district. Thus the dominant quartzite pebbles at Budleigh Salterton must have come from a source different from that which has supplied most of those at Cannock Chase.

Reference is also made to a paper of mine on Luxulyanite. It is not easy to disentangle the writer's meaning from the mass of irrelevant matter, but I presume it is not meant to be complimentary, so I may say that though more than a quarter of a century has passed since I wrote this paper, and I have studied many tourmaline-bearing rocks in the interval, I have found no reason to alter the opinion then expressed as to the history and formation of this mineral in that case. I also am familiar with party-coloured crystals of tourmaline, but fail to see that their occurrence affects the accuracy of my original conclusions. I do not remember having

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anywhere stated that tourmaline could only be formed in the way which I had described in that particular rock.

Yet more, in regard to the occurrence of magnetite in cubes. With such very minute grains mistakes are more than possible, but I still think that I detect the solid angles of cubes as well as of octahedra, and at any rate submit that this reference to my statement is misleading—"So far as I am aware [this is] the only record of the occurrence of magnetite in cubes in Great Britain"—for I had stated distinctly that the rock which I was describing was not in its natural condition, but, as I said, a basalt which had been completely melted by Messrs. Chance. That fact ought not to have been suppressed. T. G. Bonney.

BRITISH GEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

Sir,—With reference to your most kindly article in the Geological Magazine for September, I should like to be allowed to say a few words, in order to avoid the possibility of misunderstanding.

The published series of "British Geological Photographs" consists of platinotypes (mounted or unmounted) or lantern-slides, accompanied by letterpress, and is issued only to those who undertake to subscribe for the three issues (at least 20 photographs each) of which the publication consists. Sets cannot be broken, and it is not permissible to subscribe for one issue out of the three.

I have room at present for about 20 new subscribers for the three issues, and for 50 new subscribers my Committee would consider the advisability of reissuing the whole series.

The third issue, which I hope to publish within this year, will complete the publication; but the Committee are contemplating the possibility of issuing a supplementary series on the same terms. Such a series would endeavour to fill up gaps in the first series, would illustrate important phenomena a little more fully, and would also include the more uncommon features and phenomena. A certain number of subscribers' names have been received for this supplementary series, but not yet enough to warrant publication. For the descriptions which accompany the photographs and add so much to their value for scientific and teaching purposes, the Committee are indebted to a number of geologists, many of whom are not members of the Geological Photographs Committee. W. W. Watts.

Holmwood, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.
September 7th, 1903.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM H. CORFIELD, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.G.S.

Born December 14, 1843. Died August 26, 1903.

We regret to record the death at Marstrand, Sweden, of Professor William Henry Corfield, sanitary adviser to His Majesty's Office of Works, one of our leading authorities on Sanitary Science, and one who brought a sound knowledge of geological science to bear on that subject. He was born in 1843, and was educated at

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