

THE BAGSHOT BEDS OF THE BAGSHOT DISTRICT.

SIR,—Being greatly interested in the geology of the London Basin, and having just read Professor Jones's paper on the Bagshot District (Proc. Geol. Assoc. vol. vi. No. 9), I at once turned to Mr. Herries' article with the above title, on receiving the current Number of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, to be however "brought up sharp" by the first paragraph (p. 171).

The statement that "the *only* authority for the beds included in this area is Professor Prestwich, who . . . has supplied *all* the information about the district that is at present known," quite astonishes me, at least as far as regards the words which I have italicized. No one is more ready to bear witness to the great value of Professor Prestwich's many papers on the London Basin than I am, for no one, probably, has used them more; but that great authority on Tertiary geology would never claim such an exclusive right to the Bagshot District, the structure of which he made out and first described in detail.

There happens to be an institution known as the "Geological Survey," whose work consists in recording the details of the geology of these islands. Some of its officers (chiefly a former colleague, Mr. Polwhele, a Cambridge man) years ago surveyed the Bagshot District, and the result of their work has been published on the Geological Survey maps. Moreover, in the course of my own work on that Survey, I have a distinct recollection of running one of the so-called "Horizontal Sections" across that district, and of having corrected the proofs of a Memoir (vol. iv. 1872) that gives a detailed description of the Bagshot Beds, and in which, I believe, the pebble-beds were for the first time described at any length.

This note is not written with any wish to disparage Mr. Herries' work; on the contrary, I welcome an addition to the ranks of our Tertiary geologists, and congratulate him on his enlargement of the local Bagshot fauna. My object is to caution young geologists against rashly assuming that they know everything that has been done in any district. That such an error should have come from the Woodwardian Museum is astonishing, as Professor Hughes, himself an old Survey man, could at once have enlightened his pupil.

To conclude, I assure Mr. Herries that, should a second edition of the Geological Survey Memoir on the London Basin be called for, I shall make use of his paper and acknowledge his discoveries, to which I hope he may make many additions.

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28, JERMYN STREET, LONDON, S.W., 11 April, 1881.

PENTREMITES IN THE MIDDLE DEVONIAN OF DEVON.

SIR,—*Pentremites* not being as yet in the British Middle Devonian lists, may I mention their probable occurrence in the neighbourhood of Torquay? I have placed two specimens, apparently of different species, in the hands of Mr. R. Etheridge, jun., who (with Mr. P. H. Carpenter) has kindly promised to examine and describe them. He pronounces them to be *Blastoidea*, though from their state of preservation the genus requires further investigation. One bears a superficial resemblance to *Pentremites planus* (Sandb.). A third specimen, also fragmentary, is in the collection of Mr. J. E. Lee.

CHARANTE, TORQUAY.

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