

paper. The reason for correlating the Longmynd rocks with the Upper Monian are, first, that they are certainly pre-Cambrian, especially since the discovery by Prof. Lapworth of the lowest Cambrian fauna in other rocks in the immediate neighbourhood, and, secondly, that the only certain fossils recorded from the Longmynd, *Arenicolites didyma*, are also recorded from the rocks of Bray Head. It is also to be noted that as the "Uriconian" is to a large extent volcanic, there need not be much of a gap between it and the "Longmyndian." By some curious effort of the imagination Dr. Callaway says "Uriconian and Malvernian are lumped together as Middle Monian," but I cannot find that I have anywhere mentioned the "Malvernian," as I know too little of that district and the descriptions are too discordant to make it safe even to venture upon a probability. It may not be Monian at all.

If Dr. Callaway has a fancy to call the different divisions of the Monian by names derived from other districts, there can be no objection, provided we first make sure of the correlation. I am perfectly satisfied with their all forming parts of a larger group or system—the Monian.

I may add that as these rocks have a quite distinct character from the true Hebridean, or the general type of gneisses, I was much delighted to find that so many foreign geologists, who visited Anglesey in September last, recognized their resemblance to rocks of their several districts which occur immediately beneath their lowest fossiliferous horizons.

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Dec., 1888.

UNIFORMITY IN SCIENTIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY.

SIR,—Having been for some time engaged in preparing a bibliography of earthquake-literature, I can fully endorse the necessity of Mr. C. D. Sherborn's plea for uniformity in the quotation of abbreviated titles of scientific journals. The increasing number and importance of works of this class render this and other unsettled points in bibliography worthy of attention and discussion; and I would venture to suggest that the British Association Committee on Zoological Nomenclature could find a useful successor in a Committee for securing Uniformity in Scientific Bibliography.

May I be allowed to offer here a few remarks on this subject?

Abbreviated Titles.—Besides a mere hap-hazard choice two courses are open in the selection of abbreviated titles.

(1) We may adopt that in use amongst the members of the Society issuing the journal, as "Phil. Trans." or "Comptes Rendus." Familiarity in a few cases and established custom are in favour of the retention of this system, but it has the obvious disadvantage of not representing at a glance the complete title of an unknown journal, for it omits the name of the society. Moreover, contractions founded on such words as "Transactions" or "Proceedings," common to a great number of societies, are objectionable.

(2) The abbreviations may be formed on a uniform plan from the full title of the journal. That adopted in the Geological Record

seems to me to fail in putting to the front a word like "Trans.," a comparatively unimportant part of the title, and also a word common, as just pointed out, to many different Societies.

A better method would, I think, be to put the most important, and at the same time least-frequently used, word first, and the others in descending order, as follows: 1. Place of meeting: 2. Name of society: 3. Name of journal: *e.g. Glasgow, Geol. Soc., Trans.*

I may remark, in passing, that this system is used in the library of the Birmingham Philosophical Society. It possesses the advantage that the book-shelves form an alphabetical index to their contents.

Obvious exceptions to the rule will occur at once, some as necessary, others as desirable. The British Association Reports cannot be classed under the name of any town; and it would hardly be advisable, for instance, to subordinate the well-known Transactions of the Seismological Society of Japan under the less-known heading "Tokio." The name of the country should clearly be used when it occupies the leading place in the title.

Date of papers.—The date of a paper contributed to a society may be taken as that of its reading, or as that of the publication of the volume in which it appears: these dates often differing considerably. The latter, I believe, is the method usually adopted. But, in a case of priority, this rule would not be followed; and a paper may also become widely known by means of "authors' copies" printed off before the complete volume is published. On these accounts, it seems to me desirable that the day on which a paper is read should be accepted as its date in bibliographies.

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Dec. 7, 1888.

THE BEDS OF THE LONDON AREA.

SIR,—In the short abstract of Mr. Whitaker's paper on the Streat-ham boring, read before the Geological Society on the 21st November, the question is raised as to the horizon which the generally red beds met with beneath the Mesozoic in many of the deep borings around London occupy between the Trias and the Devonian. It has appeared to me that they probably belong to the former, because the rocks met with at Meux's Brewery in Tottenham Court Road, and at Turnford, are distinctly of the *Devonshire* type. Now, so far as I know, the "Devonian" does not assume the Red Sandstone type in Devonshire. If this is so, then it offers a presumption that, where these older beds are found of the Devonshire type, as is the case under London, they are not likely to be found also of the arenaceous type, which belongs to those in the Mendip and South Wales district. In fact the two types are not likely to be found together in the same area, unless it happens to have the exceptional position of being situated where two distinct conditions of deposition succeeded one another during one and the same geological period. For these reasons I think these red beds newer than the Carboniferous.

HARLTON, CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 11, 1888.

O. FISHER.