

does not relinquish his studies, but is now engaged on a Monograph of the recent species,¹ which it is to be hoped he may be spared to complete to his own satisfaction and the undoubted benefit of Science.

W. H. DALL.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CORNISH SERPENTINE.

SIR,—I cannot reply fully to Mr. J. H. Collins's paper on the Cornish serpentine, published at page 298 of this MAGAZINE, in which he repeats his mistakes as to the serpentine of Porthalla, until I have obtained permission from the Council of the Geological Society to have slices prepared for microscopic examination from the specimens which he presented in illustration of his paper published in vol. xl. of the Quarterly Journal. After this I think I shall be able to demonstrate that he has wrongly interpreted the very specimens on which his hypotheses are founded. In the mean time I will merely remark: (1) That the formation of the mineral called serpentine in the crevices of a rock no more proves that the rock serpentine is not of igneous origin than the occurrence of the mineral quartz in an adjacent vein proves that a quartz-felsite is not of igneous origin. (2) That (contrary to Mr. Collins's assertion) there is no essential distinction between the serpentine of Porthalla Cove and that from other parts of the Lizard district. There is as much difference as, but no more than may be commonly found between two dykes or two lava-flows in the same volcano. (3) That the serpentine of Porthalla in its relations to the hornblende-schist exhibits the usual indications of the intrusion of one rock ~~to~~ a plastic condition into another. The second and third of these statements will no doubt be put aside by Mr. Collins, like those of Mr. Somervail, as merely "a repetition of the dogmatic assertion." But in excuse for this dogmatism, I may remark that the question at issue between Mr. Collins on the one side and Mr. Somervail, myself, and those who have worked with me at the Lizard on the other, is really one of the observation of facts. He in effect says, "I cannot see any evidence of the intrusion of the serpentine into the hornblende schist." We reply, "To our eyes the junctions (with the usual indications) are often so plain that we doubt whether you really know for what to look." I may further plead in excuse of a little dogmatism on my own part that if there be one rock which I ought to know better than another it is serpentine (*i.e.* the rock of the Lizard type), of which I believe I have studied more examples and possess a larger collection than any other person in England; and if there be one class of phenomena with which I should be familiar, it is the junctions of rocks, whether brought about by igneous intrusion or by "the subsequent movements of the strata," subjects to which for the last ten years I have paid special attention.

T. G. BONNEY.

¹ This Monograph is, we understand, shortly to be published by the Linnæan Society of London in its Transactions.—EDIT.