

called *Sp. glabra* seem to have been derived from radially costate ancestors. The use of the generic name *Martinia* for various smooth Spiriferids of the Devonian and Carboniferous thus becomes wholly unjustifiable, as it simply denotes a stage of catagenetic development at which several different stocks of Spirifers arrive. As the outcome of this study the author restricts the genus *Spirifer*, and allocates several British and foreign species among the genera *Fusella*, *Choristites*, *Trigonotreta*, *Brachythyrus*, *Martenia*, and *Reticularia*. He also gives in an appendix a revised explanation of Davidson's plates xi and xii of the Monograph of Carboniferous Brachiopods.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GLACIATION OF THE USK AND WYE VALLEYS.

SIR,—At the meeting of the British Association at York in 1906 a paper on the Glaciation of the Usk and Wye Valleys was read by the Rev. W. Lower Carter, and was printed in abstract in the Report (pp. 579–580). An abstract appeared also in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE (for 1906, pp. 521, 522). The author there records several interesting and important glacial phenomena, and it is to be hoped that he will find occasion to continue his researches. There is, however, one point on which it is necessary to register a *corrigendum*. After speaking of the purely local drift in the region (an Old Red Sandstone district) he calls attention to certain “erratics of volcanic ash and brecciated limestone” (B.A. Report), or “volcanic ash and breccia” (GEOLOGICAL MAG.), which overlie the local drift; and he supposes them to be derived from distant Ordovician sources.

A recent visit—unofficial and connected with quite other matters—to the district enables me to say that the erratics of ‘volcanic ash’ and ‘breccia’ or ‘brecciated limestone’ to be seen in the village of Trecastle and on the neighbouring hillsides, and again at Talgarth and along the course of the river Enig above the town are, in fact, boulders of *cornstone*, of both the conglomeratic and the non-conglomeratic variety; and that instead of being derived from distant Ordovician sources they are traceable to quite local outcrops of that rock in the valleys in which they occur. No doubt ice had much to do with their transport, but their journeys to their present resting-places were not so romantic as a derivation from Ordovician sources would involve.

T. C. CANTRILL.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, JERMYN STREET, S.W.
7th December, 1907.

RE SPELLING OF PLACE-NAMES.

SIR,—The slight demurrer offered by your reviewer of the Geological Survey Memoir on “The Geology of the Country around Ammanford” in the November number of this Magazine (1907, p. 515), as to the alteration of the spelling of the place-name ‘Llandeilu’ to ‘Llandilo,’ reminds me of an intention I had of enquiring, through the medium of your Magazine, the views of some of your readers as to the desirability

of altering the specific names of fossils derived from place-names so as to accord with the present rendering upon the Ordnance Survey Maps. The well-known Rhætic fossil *Pleuromya crowcombeia* (Moore) is given as *Pleuromya crocombeia*—the *w* is omitted—in the Geological Survey Memoir on “The Geology of the Country between Wellington and Chard” (1906, p. 27).

L. RICHARDSON.

CHELTEMHAM.

14th December, 1907.

NORTH DEVON ATHENÆUM: GIFT OF THE PARTRIDGE COLLECTION.

SIR,—This institution has recently received a most valuable gift, the large collection (Partridge Collection) of Devonian and Culm fossils made by Mrs. Coomaraswamy in North and South Devon, and by Dr. Coomaraswamy on the Continent. Included in the Partridge Collection are fourteen specimens figured in the Rev. G. F. Whidborne’s Monograph of Devonian Fauna (Palæontographical Society) and the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, five of them type-specimens. This, added to T. M. Hall’s already there, makes the North Devon Athenæum Collection one of the most complete of its kind in the kingdom. The specimens being too numerous to be all displayed, Dr. Coomaraswamy has made a selection, for the exhibition of which special cases have been provided; the remainder have been placed in drawers, and, like all the specimens in this Museum, are available for purposes of study.

Devonshire, even prior to this most liberal gift, was rich in local geological collections. It may now be said without exaggeration that the Museums at Exeter, Plymouth, Torquay, and Barnstaple, between them contain practically a complete collection of the fossils and rocks (so far recorded) of the county. J. G. HAMLING.

THE CLOSE, BARNSTAPLE.

OBITUARY.

THE RT. HON. WILLIAM THOMSON, BARON KELVIN,
P.C., O.M., G.C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L.,
PAST PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, ETC.

BORN JUNE 26, 1824.

DIED DECEMBER 17, 1907.

In the death of Lord Kelvin geologists have lost one who took keen interest in the physical and astronomical aspects of their science, and aided perhaps more than any other philosopher in this country to place the subject of Cosmogony on a scientific basis. He dealt with the evolution of the heavenly bodies, with changes in the position of the earth’s axis of rotation, with the probable condition of the earth’s interior, and with the thermal conductivity of rocks. In one respect his views regarding the earth found little support. His calculations on the increase of temperature beneath the surface and the rate of loss of heat from the earth led him in 1862 to argue that the age of the