

As the object of the paper was to arrange facts rather than to propound theories, the conclusion was chiefly occupied in summing up and correlating. It was shown that, since the leading feature of the rock masses between the Oxford and Kimmeridge Clays is *variety*, a strict and rigid correlation is altogether impossible. Yet, in spite of great local differences, producing in many places a strongly contrasted facies, there are certain features which may be deemed fairly characteristic of the several divisions. The bank-like character of most of these beds was insisted upon. A table of comparative sections, 14 in number, affording a generalized idea of the development, was exhibited, and the stratigraphical verifications of many of these given, as sections drawn to scale, in the body of the paper.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ORIGIN OF LAKE-BASINS.

SIR,—In reading the correspondence and remarks on the origin of Lake-basins in the November Number of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, it has occurred to me that the glacial origin of these basins may be explained without supposing the ice to have scooped them out of *solid* rocks such as we now see around them. I have been led to this idea by a study of the phenomena connected with the decomposition of rock *in situ* in southern latitudes—Australia and Brazil. Similar facts may likewise be seen in South Carolina, Georgia, etc.

In these regions, which have never been glaciated, the surfaces over more or less extensive areas consist of quite soft decomposed rock, and mining operations have shown that this decomposition has been very irregular in its action, and that often great masses, resembling boulders, are quite unchanged, though completely surrounded by the decomposed material; and the varying depth to which the decomposition has extended has resulted in producing a *solid rock* surface as full of hollows and depressions of all shapes and sizes as can be found in any of our northern lake regions. And if we admit that prior to the Glacial period these northern lake regions were similarly covered with decomposed rock, then the ice would not be called upon to exert any very extraordinary power in order to scoop out any number of lake-basins, and to leave enormous boulders scattered over the face of the country as we now find them.

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ALFRED R. C. SELWYN.

MR. DURHAM ON KAMES, AND MR. MELLARD READE ON BOULDER-CLAY.

SIR,—If Mr. Durham's Kames be the equivalent of the English and Irish Eskers, I cannot help thinking that he has not had an opportunity of seeing a series of good typical sections of these deposits. Along the east borders of North Wales (where I have examined the Eskers) clear sections demonstrate that their surface-configuration has been scarcely at all altered by atmospheric action, and that the internal structure of the swamp-