

required for the completion of the great physical phenomena, though the author's inquiry tends to carry man further back geologically than is usually admitted.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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A CORRECTION.—MESOZOIC MONOCOTYLEDON.

SIR,—In my review of Mesozoic Angiosperms in the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* for May, 1886, I was induced to figure a specimen from the Woodwardian Museum, which I found placed in a case among Jurassic plants, and which I was informed had come from the Yorkshire Oolites. It is no plant, and really comes from Ascension, and presents one of those extraordinary cases of mimicry which all students of fossil plant-remains are familiar with. While presenting the external form of a fruit it exhibited no trace of internal vegetable structure, and I therefore abstained from cutting a section for the microscope which would have revealed its true nature. It is evidently, as pointed out to me by Prof. Judd, a gobbet of lava, which has been ejected in a molten state to a great height, and has taken its ropy and elongated form in its descent through the air. Knowing its origin, it is easy to see how the mimic spathe has been formed by the overrunning of the still melted top down one side of the already congealed body, like a guttering candle; the indistinct seeds being minute air-bubbles caught between the two surfaces. I fortunately forbore to give it any sort of name.

In endeavouring to collect together and describe the rare and scattered, ill-preserved, and mineralized plant-remains from the marine Mesozoic beds which alone fill in much of the gap between the Carboniferous and the Tertiary, the most experienced are liable to err. Only a few days since some concretions were sent to me by a well-known geologist as plants.

Unfortunately many of our museums abound with specimens to which hypothetical localities and imaginary formations are assigned. I spent the best part of a day in noting down errors of this description in the Tertiary and Cretaceous collection of a northern university museum, and sent them to the Curator, who up till now has not acknowledged their receipt.

J. STARKIE GARDNER.

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A SOUTH AFRICAN GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—You will be pleased to know that a "South-African Geologists' Association" has been established at Grahamstown in connection with the Albany Museum there. Dr. Atherstone, F.G.S., has been appointed its first President; and there are Vice-Presidents in Cape Town, Natal, the Free State, and Transvaal. Dr. Atherstone had long endeavoured to get up such a Society, and the Exhibition there gave the opportunity for carrying it out.

T. RUPERT JONES.

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Dr. J. W. Spencer, Professor of Geology at the University of Georgia, has been appointed State Geologist of Georgia.