is not kaolin it is something so closely akin to kaolin as to be hardly distinguishable. I say this because the late Sir John Harrison, who kindly analysed some kaolinized orthoclase crystals for me, suggested that the silicate might be halloysite. Neither I nor anyone else has had reason to think that halloysite is the general weathering product. On the other hand, over basic rocks, such as the dolerite of Kuantan, aluminium hydrate is a general weathering product.

So far my contributions to the literature on laterite have been destructive criticism, as I would drop the word altogether unless used as Buchanan originally used it. I think I have good reason for this attitude because the originator of the term has been ignored by most geologists. One author went so far as to say that the " setting " property of laterite is not an essential characteristic, but that property is the chief reason, one might say the only reason, why the name exists. No analysis of Buchanan's type-rock has been made, though he described it 123 years ago, and in spite of the long discussion that began in 1909. A letter from the office of the Director of the Geological Survey of India, dated 23rd January, 1930, informs me that Buchanan's laterite is a detrital form varying from " limonitic hematite to argillaceous or siliceous limonite ".

As Buchanan stated that his laterite was above granite I suspect that it is chemically as well as physically like some of our Malacca laterite and that hydrated silicate of aluminium is the general weathering product of granite in India as well as in Malaya, Indo-China, and the Netherlands Indies. To what an extent Buchanan's term is being misused has been brought home to me forcibly by finding that pedologists regard as a " lateritic " soil a soil in which hydrates of aluminium and iron are concentrated in the A or upper horizon of the soil, whereas a " podsol " is a soil in which the hydrates are concentrated in the B and C or lower horizons.

It will certainly be impossible for me to do enough work now in other countries to prove my ideas, but I put forward this constructive suggestion: wherever rocks weather an hydrated silicate is the main product of the felspars in acid igneous rocks, but in basic rocks varying amounts of aluminium hydrate are formed. Sometimes in acid igneous rocks the hydrated silicate undergoes further decomposition to a hydrate, the cause not being yet determined, and bauxite is formed. Such rich concentrations of aluminium hydrate are commoner in basic rocks. So-called " tropical weathering " is only an intensification of weathering in temperate climes due to greater heat and greater moisture.

J. B. Scrivenor.

Editorial Note.

In the hope of saving much correspondence, the Editor ventures to remind contributors that all plates and figures *must* have titles. This is essential for indexing purposes.