

comparatively small area the temperature of the regional country rocks must have been such that they were a closed system to argon (with the possible exception of the Strath Spey granite for which the K-Ar ages approximate to those of the country rocks). This is indicative of intrusion into essentially "cool" country rocks and gives added interest to the geological interpretation of the structural and metamorphic characteristics of the granites.

May we reiterate our comment in the paper that much radiometric and geological information is still necessary to clarify the interpretation of the Caledonian age pattern.

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TRACE FOSSILS FROM NAMURIAN SANDSTONE, YORKSHIRE

SIR,—In view of R. W. Sheldon's record of probable gastropod tracks from the Kinderscoutian Stage (R₁) of the Central Pennines (*Geol. Mag.*, **105** (4), 365–6) it is pertinent to note the occurrence of similar trace fossils in the same region but at a higher stratigraphical horizon.

At the abandoned Tower Quarry, Cornholme (SD 707 231), some 3 kilometres north-west of Todmorden, Yorkshire, trace fossils of the Repichnia group are common on stratification surfaces within the Hazel Greave Grit. This Namurian sandstone of Marsdenian (R₂) age is hereabouts micaceous and occasionally carbonaceous. Smooth sinuous tracks between 7 and 14 mm wide with the well defined "gill-like" transverse structures similar to those on Sheldon's illustration (Plate 12) are attributed as *Olivellites*.

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12th September, 1968

REVIEWS

MARTIN, P. S. & WRIGHT, H. E. JR. (Eds.) 1967. *Pleistocene Extinctions: The Search for a Cause*. (Vol. 6 of Proc. VII Congress, International Association for Quaternary Research.) x + 453 p., figs. Yale University Press, New Haven and London. Price £5 12s. 6d.

The apparently sudden extinction of many groups of animals in the later Pleistocene, in many parts of the world, has been a subject for speculation among scientists for years and the aims of this INQUA conference were to canalize some of the many widely differing theories. With many diverse disciplines contributing to this subject, a wide if not exhaustive coverage of many aspects relating to Pleistocene extinctions can be presented. As Paul Martin stresses in the preface, whatever else this volume may have contributed, the issues have been sharpened "and above all made more vulnerable to further testing". These words sum up the positive value of the book, that although it may have many shortcomings, and criticism can be levelled on many counts, nonetheless the stimulation to further thought and investigation must not be underestimated.

Inevitably, the accent throughout most of the book is on the problem as it affects North America, and this region is dealt with in much greater detail than any other area.