

CORRESPONDENCE.

COAL MEASURE FLORAS.

SIR,—I beg to place on record the results to date of an investigation of the plant horizons occurring in the Clackmannan and Fife Coalfields. Previous records from these areas, on the authority of Dr. Kidston¹ have hitherto been assigned to his Lanarkian Series.

On the basis of the plant assemblages characteristic of the Yorkian and Lanarkian Series, as revised by Dr. Crookall² the measures above the Coalsnaughton Main in the Clackmannan area contain a major proportion of Yorkian species.

The general barrenness of the Mid-Cherry and the Coalsnaughton Main, together with the occurrence of *Neuropteris rectinervis* Kidst. in the Coalsnaughton Main and in an ironstone rib, which is 5 feet above the seam and 3 feet above a mussel-band with *Carbonicola pseudorobusta* Trueman, would appear to indicate that these two seams at least come within Kidston's "Lanarkian" Series.

This reading of the sequence is in close agreement with the results obtained by Dr. Crookall³ in the Stirlingshire area, where the top of the Lanarkian has been placed at approximately the level of the Auchingane Coal, correlated by Dr. Murray Macgregor⁴ with the Mid-Cherry.

With regard to Fife, *Neuropteris rectinervis* Kidst. has been obtained from a bed 12 feet below the *Carbonicola pseudorobusta* Trueman mussel-band in Gallatown Quarry, Kirkcaldy, a horizon which is approximately 100 feet above the Dysart Main. As in Clackmannan, the higher seams have yielded a majority of Yorkian species and, since there is little doubt that the Dysart Main is roughly the equivalent of the Coalsnaughton Main of Clackmannan and the Mid-Cherry of Stirlingshire, we now have a general agreement between these three eastern coalfields.

The work is being continued with the aid of a grant from the Government Grant Committee of the Royal Society, and a detailed description of the evidence obtained will be published shortly.

R. GREGORY ABSALOM.

¹ Kidston, R. 1923-5. "Fossil Plants of the Carboniferous Rocks of Great Britain," *Mem. Geol. Surv., Palaeontology*, ii.

² Crookall, R. 1932. "The Supposed 'Lanarkian' in Shropshire," *The Naturalist*, 72-3.

³ Crookall, R. 1931. "A Critical Revision of Kidston's Coal Measure Floras," *Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edin.*, xxii, i, 1-34.

⁴ Macgregor, M. 1928-9. "Scottish Carboniferous Stratigraphy: an Introduction to the Study of the Carboniferous Rocks of Scotland," *Trans. Geol. Soc. Glasgow*, xviii, iii, pl. 3.

NATURAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT,
KELVINGROVE ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS,
GLASGOW.

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