also with the fact that it was discovered in compact sandstone, instead of conglomerate. I shall be most happy to forward the specimen for the inspection of any one interested in the matter.

H. W. JAMIESON, Capt., F.R.G.S.,
JUNIOR ARMY AND NAVY CLUB. Bengal Staff Corps.

NOTE ON MR. LEE'S SPECIMENS OF FOSSIL WOOD FROM GRIQUA LAND.

SIR,—The Lignite from Kimberly Mine, Claim 196, consists of stems, or branches converted into a brittle lignite, which still preserves the original size and form of the stems, and exhibits the internal structure peculiar to the Coniferæ. The wood cells have a single series of discs, as in the wood of the recent Pines.

The specimens from Kimberly Mine, Claim 165, are more altered, and approach the condition of our Palæozoic coal. The small portions which show structure (mother-coal) consist of fragments of Coniferous wood, exhibiting the disciferous wood tissue with the discs in single rows.

The slides from the coal of Heilbron, Vaal River, Free State, consist of wood cells, with discs in single or double and opposite rows, as in the recent Pines.

W. CARRUTHERS.
BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT, BRITISH MUSEUM.

GEOLOGY OF THE ISLE OF MAN.

SIR,—I examined in April, 1878, with Dr. Stolterfoth, of Chester, the Conglomerate of Langness in the Isle of Man, and can add my testimony to that of Mr. Morton (GEOL. MAG., May, 1879), that Mr. Cumming was not mistaken in assigning them a position below the Carboniferous Limestone. Not only are they seen in the beach to dip under the Limestone, but the lower beds of the latter are themselves conglomeratic and interstratified with beds of red conglomerate, resembling those which occupy a large part of the promontory. Like Mr. Morton, I failed to find any limestone pebbles in the Conglomerates.

A. STRAHAN.
HOLYWELL, *May* 12, 1879.

[The following is a copy of a letter addressed to the Editor of the *Times*; published May 19th, 1879. Its contents are so important that we gladly take leave to reprint it in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE. —EDIT. GEOL. MAG.]

"POSITION OF THE SILURIAN ROCKS IN HERTS.

"SIR,—In June, 1877, you did me the favour to insert in the *Times* the announcement and recognition by myself of the Devonian rocks in the deep boring at Messrs. Meux's Brewery, Tottenham-court-road, which there occurred below an abnormal condition of the Lower Greensand at the depth of 1,140ft. This announcement was at first received with doubt; nevertheless, the problem as to what was the nature of the Palæozoic rocks below London was there and then solved. Since then borings of greater diameter still have been put down in other parts of the London Basin for the same purpose.

"Two of the trials have been some time in progress by the New River Company—one at Turnford, near Cheshunt, and the other at Ware, near Hertford. Both these important borings and extensions were undertaken by the New River Company for the purpose of obtaining a larger supply of pure water from the Chalk, and for settling the question of the existence or non-existence of the Lower Greensand in Hertfordshire. To a considerable extent the desire and anticipation of the Company have been realized through large supplies from their deep penetrations into the Chalk, this being especially the case at the Turnford deep well, near Cheshunt.

"The presence, however, of the Lower Greensand below the Gault in Hertfordshire has long been problematical; but, knowing that usually it is a source of extremely pure water and in considerable quantities, the New River Company undertook, with great public spirit, the completion of the two deep borings named, through the Chalk and Gault. They were quite aware of the probability or possibility of finding some Palæozoic rock under their trials in Hertfordshire, and, unfortunately for the deeper supply of water, such has proved to be the case, owing to the absence of the Lower Greensand at Ware (one of their stations), and the occurrence of the partly anticipated more ancient rocks, upon which they now find the Gault immediately rests, without the intervention of the Lower Greensand.

"It is well known how much interest is attached to the question of the extension of the older formations under the overlying or newer rocks of the south-east of England; this interest is now intensified through the Ware boring by the discovery of one of the oldest formations in the British Islands immediately beneath the Gault and at the depth of 800ft. At this depth I have to announce the presence of the Upper Silurian rocks (the Wenlock Shale), richly fossiliferous, dipping at an angle of 40 deg., but to which point of the compass is not at present known. I believe this delicate matter will be ascertained by the engineers of the New River Company—a question of the utmost importance in determining the strike or bearing of the older *strata* at any depth. Fresh interest is now attached to the Turnford boring, the diamond crown being now low down in the Gault at 980ft.

"So spirited and costly an undertaking to seek for pure water for the supply of the metropolis is, indeed, highly judicious and important on the part of the New River Company. We must not too hastily complain of the want of public spirit, when every effort is made to obtain, even at great cost, an element so important to the sanitary condition of the people. In this the New River Company have not failed in intuition or purpose, and to their enterprise is due the solution of another geological problem.

"*May* 16. ROBERT ETHERIDGE."

NOTE.—Since the above letter was written to the *Times*, we have received from Mr. Etheridge the names of the fossils found in the cores of Wenlock rock at the bottom of the bore-hole at Ware. We hope to receive from him, for our next Number, a more detailed notice of the probable Physical Geography and extension of these

old rocks underlying the Tertiary and Cretaceous strata of the London Basin. It is to be hoped that the direction of the "strike" may be determined in the course of a few weeks, a matter of paramount interest and importance to a true understanding of the distribution of the Palæozoic and other rocks, either here or underlying any other area where it has been determined they exist.

This is at present a problem of the first consideration in deep-boring, and upon its successful solution must depend in great measure the practical value of our knowledge that strata of high economic importance probably lie within an accessible depth beneath our feet. Until we know approximately the 'strike' of these Palæozoic rocks, it will be of little avail to suggest where next to *seek*, or in what direction we should test them by further experimental borings.

The following fossils have been determined by Mr. Etheridge from the few feet of cores examined:—

I. PROTOZOA.
1. *Ischadites Kœnigii*, Murch.
II. ECHINODERMATA.
2. *Taxocrinus*, sp.
III. ANNELIDA.
3. *Tentaculites ornatus*, Sby.
IV. CRUSTACEA.
4. *Phacops caudatus*, Brünn.
V. MOLLUSCA-BRACHIOPODA.
5. *Orthis canaliculata*, Lindst.
6. *Meristella tumida*, Dalm.
7. *Cyrtia exporrecta*, Dalm.
8. *Spirifera plicatella*, Linn.
9. *Athyris*, sp.
10. *Crania implicata*, Sby.
11. *Rhynchonella cuneata*, Dalm.? or *deflexa*, Sby.
12. *Atrypa reticularis*, Linn.
13. *Pentamerus galeatus*, Dalm.
14. *Pentamerus linguifer*, Sby.
15. *Strophomena euglypha*, Dalm.
16. ——— *depressa*, Dalm
17. ——— *rhomboidalis*, Wilckens.
18. ——— *antiquata*, Sby.
19. *Chonetes*, sp.
20. *Leptæna sericea*, Sby.
21. ——— *transversalis*, Dalm.
22. *Streptorhynchus*, sp.
CONCHIFERA.
23. *Pterinæa*, sp.
24. *Mytilus mytilimeris*, *Conr.*
25. *Orthonota rigida*, Sby.
GASTEROPODA.
26. *Euomphalus rugosus*, Sby.
CEPHALOPODA.
27. *Orthoceras attenuatum*, Sby.
28. ——— sp.

OBITUARY.

TRENHAM REEKS, Died 5th May, 1879.

With much regret we record the death of Mr. Trenham Reeks, the esteemed Registrar of the Royal School of Mines, Jermyn Street. By his death one of the oldest associations of the Geological Survey and School of Mines is severed. When only about sixteen years of age, he became connected with the infant Museum established by the energy of his friend, Sir Henry de la Beche, in Craig's Court; and on the enlargement of that establishment, and the creation of the School of Mines, he was appointed to the office he has held until now; so that, although but 56 years of age, he had seen nearly 40 years of public service. Having worked at Chemistry and Mineralogy under Richard Phillips, F.R.S., he devoted himself to the enrichment of the Mineralogical collection under his charge in Jermyn Street. He also possessed great knowledge of pottery, and his illustrated handbook of the Ceramic collection is still a valued work of reference. Personally he was singularly courteous and obliging, and he so thoroughly identified himself with the interests of the School of Mines, that his loss to that Institution will long be felt.—("*Nature*," May 8.)