the Durness fauna) and the dark outer layer of the siphuncle in certain forms of *Vaginoceras* suggested a different chemical composition, but I could not get a molybdate precipitate. My observations did not support any of the previous explanations of the function of the siphuncle, including those given by such careful observers as Professor Blake and Dr. Willey, though there was no need to go into them all again.

I may also mention that I would consider the typically regular septation of Cephalopoda as a whole and formation of chambers filled with gas (as contrasted with the tabulation, etc., in other tabular organisms) to be more or less impossible without the posteriorly attached siphuncle; also that there may be a connexion between the attachment (in Ammonoidea) to the inflated beginning of the siphuncle or cæcum (itself attached by one or more bands, the so-called prosiphon) and the progression of the end of the protoconch (in phylogeny) from asellate and latisellate to angustisellate, as opposed to the reverse tendency of the following suture-lines to deepen the external lobe. But these suggestions will be difficult of demonstration.

In conclusion, I hope that since several siphuncular structures, notably "Grandjean's membrane", still remain unexplained, Dr. Trueman will continue his investigations into the Ammonite siphuncle.

L. F. Spath.

[This letter was received just too late for insertion in the February number.—Ed. Geological Magazine.]

THE GENOTYPE OF *SPIRIFER*.

Sir,—By some regrettable mischance certain errors of reference occur in my communication to your Magazine, January, 1920, pp. 18-20. The following corrections are required :—

p. 19, line 5 from bottom, for "M.C. ii, pl. cclxiii" read "M.C. iii, pl. cclxv".

p. 20, line 5 from top, for "M.C. ii, pl. cxxv" read "M.C. ii, pl. cclxv".

p 20, line 8 from top, for "M.C. ii" read "M.C. iii".

p. 20, line 12 from top, for "141, 142" read "41, 42".

I may also take the opportunity to point out that Sowerby's plate of *Spirifer striatus* is numbered in M.C. iii, "170," whereas it is intended for "270". The text says "*Spirifer striatus*, Tab. cclxxi", whereas it should be "cclxx". His index corrects these errors.

I desire to thank my vigilant friend Mr. Tutcher for noting my lapses.

S. S. Buckman.