

seems to me to fail in putting to the front a word like "Trans.," a comparatively unimportant part of the title, and also a word common, as just pointed out, to many different Societies.

A better method would, I think, be to put the most important, and at the same time least-frequently used, word first, and the others in descending order, as follows: 1. Place of meeting: 2. Name of society: 3. Name of journal: *e.g. Glasgow, Geol. Soc., Trans.*

I may remark, in passing, that this system is used in the library of the Birmingham Philosophical Society. It possesses the advantage that the book-shelves form an alphabetical index to their contents.

Obvious exceptions to the rule will occur at once, some as necessary, others as desirable. The British Association Reports cannot be classed under the name of any town; and it would hardly be advisable, for instance, to subordinate the well-known Transactions of the Seismological Society of Japan under the less-known heading "Tokio." The name of the country should clearly be used when it occupies the leading place in the title.

Date of papers.—The date of a paper contributed to a society may be taken as that of its reading, or as that of the publication of the volume in which it appears: these dates often differing considerably. The latter, I believe, is the method usually adopted. But, in a case of priority, this rule would not be followed; and a paper may also become widely known by means of "authors' copies" printed off before the complete volume is published. On these accounts, it seems to me desirable that the day on which a paper is read should be accepted as its date in bibliographies.

CHARLES DAVISON.

KING EDWARD'S HIGH SCHOOL, BIRMINGHAM,
Dec. 7, 1888.

THE BEDS OF THE LONDON AREA.

SIR,—In the short abstract of Mr. Whitaker's paper on the Streat-ham boring, read before the Geological Society on the 21st November, the question is raised as to the horizon which the generally red beds met with beneath the Mesozoic in many of the deep borings around London occupy between the Trias and the Devonian. It has appeared to me that they probably belong to the former, because the rocks met with at Meux's Brewery in Tottenham Court Road, and at Turnford, are distinctly of the *Devonshire* type. Now, so far as I know, the "Devonian" does not assume the Red Sandstone type in Devonshire. If this is so, then it offers a presumption that, where these older beds are found of the Devonshire type, as is the case under London, they are not likely to be found also of the arenaceous type, which belongs to those in the Mendip and South Wales district. In fact the two types are not likely to be found together in the same area, unless it happens to have the exceptional position of being situated where two distinct conditions of deposition succeeded one another during one and the same geological period. For these reasons I think these red beds newer than the Carboniferous.

HARLTON, CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 11, 1888.

O. FISHER.