

CORRESPONDENCE.

REMAINS OF *BOS PRIMIGENIUS* RECENTLY FOUND AT
SOUTHAMPTON.

SIR,—During the progress of the excavation for the purpose of forming a new deep water dock of eighteen acres at Southampton, a fine specimen of the horn cores and part of the skull of *Bos primigenius* has been found.

The river mud with which the excavation begins is of a thickness varying from ten to fifteen feet, below which a bed of peat resting on dark angular flint gravel occurs. Both the peat and the gravel vary in thickness, as the gravel is found more or less in ridges, in the hollows of which the peat attains its greatest depth. It was from one of these thick masses of peat that the remains of *Bos primigenius* were met with at a depth of nearly twenty feet below the surface of the mud, which formed the bed of the tidal estuary at this spot.

The skull was found in one piece, and includes the frontal, occipital, temporal, sphenoid (with both wings), and tympanic bones, with fragments of the pterygoids, and of the ethmoids.

The temporal fossæ are preserved, and the roof of one orbit, and part of the other; the zygomatic arches are incomplete.

The breadth of the forehead, across the centre, is ten inches, and between the orbits about twelve inches. The length of the forehead as preserved is eleven inches, and the length from the frontal crest to the base of the occipital bone is ten inches. The circumference of the cores of the horns at their roots is sixteen and a quarter inches, and the length of the cores round the curvature about twenty-nine inches. The width apart of the horn cores from tip to tip is thirty-four and a half inches.

The specimen has been placed in the Museum of the Hartley Institution, Southampton. T. W. SHORE.

PALEONTOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE AND THE TRINOMIAL
SYSTEM.

SIR,—An answer given not very long ago in an Examination paper was as follows, "Physical Geography is the work of God, Geology is the work of man." No doubt the candidate who wrote this answer failed to receive full marks; but since the matter was brought to my notice, it has frequently occurred to me that the reply was not altogether inappropriate. Geology and Palæontology are suffering from such an infusion of new and hard names that the ordinary reader and even the hard-working student are often bewildered and baffled in their efforts to comprehend the progress of knowledge. It is not my intention now to discuss any of the new terms applied to our formations and their subdivisions; suffice it to say that most of the suggestions to replace old and well-understood names would, if adopted, be more likely to place obstacles in the path of the inquirer than to assist or encourage his studies. What even more painfully stirs me at the present time is the multiplication