

	Feet.
1. <i>Chama</i> beds	300
2. Pseudo-lagoon—(a) Sponges	300
(b) Mussels, etc.	900
(c) <i>Heliopora</i>	1500
3. Clinker embankment (broken corals)	30
4. Rock pools	90
5. Outer zone, massive living corals	30

A map and diagrams are given. The authors summarize as follows:—The growth of an individual reef is shown to proceed in a regular cycle. If the reef reaches the surface with its axis along the wind, then its shape endures; but if across the wind, then its extremities are produced backwards, forming first a crescent, later a horseshoe, and lastly an oval, thus enclosing a lagoon. Descent at this stage arrests development or rejuvenates the reef. In quiescence the lagoon walls broaden, the lagoon is obliterated with sediment, a vegetated sandbank spreads on the summit, and the atoll, grown to a cay, has arrived at maturity. ‘Negro-heads’ are not, as has been advanced, relics of former raised reefs, but masses of coral tossed up by hurricanes, and no great antiquity can be ascribed to them. They find for Darwin’s view that this portion of the Great Barrier has been formed during subsidence.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS.

SIR,—In the review of the Summary of Progress of the Geological Survey for 1907 (August number, p. 379), two rather misleading statements have been inadvertently made which it is desirable to correct. It is stated that the Appendix contains articles “on the Mugearites, one of the Tertiary igneous rocks of the Inner Hebrides,” and “on the marine beds near the base of the Upper Carboniferous in Scotland.”

The article on the Mugearites was written to describe rocks of this type occurring in the Carboniferous volcanic series in Midlothian and East Lothian. The Tertiary Mugearites, previously recognised and named by Mr. Harker, were only introduced for the sake of comparison. The marine beds referred to occur, not near the base of the Upper Carboniferous in Scotland, but near the base of the Upper Carboniferous red barren measures, which in Scotland overlie all the worked coal-seams of the Coal-measures.

J. HORNE.

DESOR’S “SYNOPSIS DES ÉCHINIDES FOSSILES.”

SIR,—The “Synopsis des Échinides Fossiles,” by E. Desor, is a work still in constant use by every worker on the Echinoidea. Its use, however, is rendered difficult, first, by the lack of an index—a want particularly felt in these days when so many names have been altered; secondly, by the fact that it was published in *livraisons* issued at different dates, and that certain sheets were cancelled, others being substituted at a later date.