

iron tube inserted in the covers of the well and running up alongside of the pump. With an outward blast, this “buzzer,” it is said, can be heard a mile off.

Mr. Fairley, the county analyst, pronounces the water “a hard water of good quality for drinking, but not for any purposes where softness is mainly due.” On raising the covers of the well, the water is seen in a state of ebullition, which soon ceases.

The existence of a cavern in the strata has been suggested as the cause of the blowing wells in this district. The very considerable thickness of sandstone that probably intervenes between the bottom of the well, and the underlying Magnesian Limestone—the unlikelihood of any cavern existing in the sandstone itself—and the almost certain tendency the glacial sands would have to fall through any opening of the kind, causing a depression on the surface of the soil, of which there is no evidence, for the wells are situated on dome-shaped ridges of drift-covered sandstone, incline me to look for another reason for the phenomenon. I am more disposed to think that, taking into account the fissures in the sandstone, its origin may be traced to causes similar to those which produce explosions in coal-mines. These, I understand, generally take place at or about the time the barometer has reached its lowest point.

Mr. Hutton, of Solberge, takes much interest in the peculiar action on the part of his well, and registers the changes in velocity and temperature of the blast by means of the anemometer and thermometer. The barometrical observations, as already noticed, show that the direction of the current is dependent upon the weight of the atmosphere.

Mr. Fox-Strangways, F.G.S., tells me that he believes the great currents of air which issue from large caverns are more generally influenced by temperature than by barometrical changes, and that he has been struck with the enormous current of air which issues from the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, but which is an incurrent during the night.

The existence of such wells, as are above described, is unknown to me elsewhere than in this neighbourhood.¹ Any information as to their occurrence in other parts of the country, might help to throw light upon a subject which is at present a puzzle to many in this district, and is, I cannot but think, well worthy of further investigation. There are borings or wells called “blow wells” on the Lincolnshire wolds, and on the coast of Essex, but I am unacquainted with their history.

A. G. CAMERON,

NORTHALLERTON, Dec., 1879.

H. M. Geol Survey.

¹ See Blowing Well near Preston described by J. Rofe, F.G.S., *Geol. Mag.* 1867, Vol. IV. p. 106.

ERRATA in Mr. W. Davies's paper, January, 1880.

Page 19, line 25 from top, for “rapprochait,” read “rapproche.”

„ 25, „ 13 from bottom, for “la,” read “le.”

„ 26, „ 23 from top, for “*Pelicanus*,” read “*Pelecanus*,” and in all subsequent instances to p. 27.

ERRATUM—January, 1880. In Mr. Kinahan's article, p. 29, line 23, for *Killarney* read *Killary*.