

exist. These endeavours have proved futile, for, while a Committee, after sinking a well or enlarging an old one—I forget which—at Chapelhall, near Airdrie, have been enabled to say that they found no shells in the Drift where a previous observer had reported their presence, other observers have been discovering in Ayrshire large deposits of Boulder-clay in which shells occur, often even possessing their epidermis. What adds pungency to the fact is, that these large beds of Boulder-clay are exposed in numerous natural sections that were open to the eyes of glacialists and others interested, who failed to see that they contained marine shells—being perhaps stricken with an ice-sheet blindness—while time and money were being consumed in sinking wells elsewhere and finding nothing.

Now that large deposits of shelly Boulder-clay have been found to exist in Ayrshire at various heights, from sea-level up to 1062 feet, my friend Mr. Bell is not inclined to attach so much importance to their presence. In fact, he says, “the value of the Ayrshire sections as proofs of submergence has yet to be determined. My own opinion, frankly, is that it is *nil*.”

As regards the suggestion that the Muirkirk beds have been laid down by a Frith of Clyde glacier, I can only point out that the hypothetical course of such a glacier does not correspond with that of any map I have yet seen which professes to give the lines of glacial flow in Scotland. It is really too bad to ask geologists to grant phenomena as due to the devious courses of masses of land-ice when such hypothetical courses have to be amended from day to day to fit in with the progress of discovery, and often involve the most surprising contradictions.

T. MELLARD READE.

PARK CORNER, BLUNDELLANDS,
February 3, 1897.

GENERAL SEQUENCE OF THE CARBONIFEROUS ROCKS.

SIR,—I feel deeply obliged to Mr. Etheridge for calling attention to an omission in the Introduction to my Monograph on the British Carboniferous lamellibranchs. I am sorry to say that in my table of the general sequence of Scottish Carboniferous rocks, the upper and middle groups of the Carboniferous Limestone series are also missing. How these lapses have come about I am unable to say, for I have the most distinct recollection of inserting these groups in their correct position in my MSS. Of course I am convicted of great carelessness in the reading of the proof, for which there is no excuse.

WHEELTON HIND.

OBITUARY.

WE regret to announce the deaths of Dr. Bernhard Lundgren, Professor of Geology in the University of Lund; and of Professor Constantin Baron von Ettingshausen, the distinguished Palæobotanist of Graz, Austria. We hope to give some account of these eminent men in the next number of the Magazine.