

depend upon the supply of snow, and eventually the deep channel might be filled with ice to the bottom.—Yours truly,

R. M. DEELEY.

MELBOURNE HOUSE, OSMASTON ROAD, DERBY.

January 11, 1909.

PEARL FROM THE CHALK.

SIR,—The interesting notice of Mr. Newton's paper on Chalk Pearls in your January number recalled to my memory that I still possessed the original pearl from which Mr. B. B. Woodward's section was cut. Singularly enough the circumstance had entirely escaped the memory of both of us until your notice referred me to Mr. Newton's figure and allowed me to recognize the section and the pearl as one and the same specimen. Following Mr. Woodward's example I have had the pleasure of presenting the larger half of the pearl to the British Museum (Natural History), so they can in future be inspected in the Geological Department.

G. E. DIBLEY.

46, BURGHILL ROAD, SYDENHAM, S.E.

January 13, 1909.

FLINTS IN THE DRIFT.

SIR,—I am delighted to learn from Dr. Bather's note in your January issue (p. 47) that flints are as abundant in Denmark as in East Anglia, and doubtless the prehistoric Danes made their implements from their own chalk-flints. If the word 'pink' is inserted before the word 'flint' in line 9 of my previous letter (see *GEOL. MAG.*, 1908, p. 575), it will, I think, be in order. In the *Trans. Hull Geol. Soc.*, 1902 (vol. v, pt. ii, p. 31), Mr. J. W. Stather writes:—"Following Mr. C. Reid's surmise in the Holderness Memoir, we have become accustomed to regard Denmark as the source of the *pink* flints, common in the Boulder clays of Holderness. This is an error, as Mr. A. Jessen, of the Danish Geological Survey, recently informed the secretary that *pink* flints do not occur either in the Cretaceous Rocks or the drifts of Denmark, and are quite unknown there."

T. SHEPPARD.

THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—Though I have never had the pleasure of hearing a discussion at the Geological Society, and do not know how closely the views expressed there in full agree with the brief report subsequently given, I should be glad if I might be allowed to make a suggestion.

The publication of the discussion in the proceedings adds considerably to the interest of papers to Fellows who, like myself, are unable to attend the meetings. But the question I wish to ask is whether their usefulness does not stop at this point? There are, of course, cases when a paper deals with a subject closely studied by those present, and when even criticisms that are hastily composed may have a value. There are other cases when the subject-matter

is less familiar and a paper may suffer harm from unstudied remarks. Indeed, the value of the Quarterly Journal may be lessened by the insertion of such criticisms, which the Editor can hardly in fairness eliminate.

My suggestion is that the publication of the discussions should be limited to the Proceedings. The papers published in the Journal, usually the result of years of work, would not then suffer by juxtaposition with remarks composed at a few minutes' notice, and the Proceedings would have a more lasting value. Personally, I should like to see their interest and value still further increased (and the bulk of the Journal diminished) by the inclusion in the Proceedings of the President's address, the Report of the Council, etc.

CHARLES DAVISON.

16, MANOR ROAD, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

THE PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an error in the printed report of an address I delivered to the Geologists' Association last February on "The Centenary of the Geological Society", which I shall be glad if you will allow me to correct. On p. 369 of the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, vol. xx, the statement occurs: "Since Forbes's day no President has been elected under 50, with the exception of Dr. Marr, who was 47." This should read as follows: "Since Forbes's day no President has been elected under 40, and during the last twenty years none under 50, with the exception of Dr. Marr, who was 47." The mistake arose through a line being dropped in transcribing my notes, and it escaped attention while passing through the press. As a matter of fact, there were seven Presidents of the Society under 50 between Forbes and Dr. Marr, viz., Hamilton (first term), Sharpe, Ramsay, Smyth, Huxley, the Duke of Argyll, and Professor Judd. While on this subject I may note that the oldest President was Leonard Horner, who when elected for his second term was 75.

Perhaps I may also be allowed to remind your readers that the recent election of Sir Archibald Geikie to the Presidential Chair of the Royal Society adds a third name to those I have mentioned on the above-quoted page of my address (Lord Northampton and Huxley) who have served as Presidents both of the Royal and Geological Societies.

R. S. HERRIES.

5, NEW STREET SQUARE, E.C.

THE BURNING CLIFF NEAR LYME REGIS.

SIR,—Now that the spontaneous combustion at the Lyme Regis end of Black Ven has been mentioned in your pages, I beg to be allowed to point out a possible source of misconception to visitant geologists as to the extent of the burning. But first let me make it clear that my statement is only hearsay, and may be mere gossip; for