

I venture to send you this communication in the hope that it may attract the attention of some naturalist in South Africa, of greater experience than myself, as the subject is one of considerable interest to the geologist.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WELLS, NORFOLK, 2nd April, 1886.

H. W. FEILDEN.

#### DISCOVERIES IN THE PUNJAB SALT-RANGE.

SIR,—Since the abstract of my paper to the Royal Geol. Soc. of Ireland on the subject of Dr. Warth's discoveries in the Eastern Salt-range appeared in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for March, a paper on the same subject by Dr. Waagen, of Prague, in the Records of the Geol. Survey of India (vol. xix. pt. 1), has reached me. Several points in this paper relate to the stratigraphy of the Salt-range as interpreted in my Geological Survey Report, and one or two especially touch portions of my paper referred to, and its abstract.

With reference to these last, I may notice that certain of the fossils to which I alluded as undetermined have now been fully described by Dr. Waagen, and are referred to the Carboniferous, not Devonian age, as I had been informed. Beyond accepting the purely palæontological determinations of Dr. Waagen, I have little to say: he gives his evidence, describing most of the species as new or indeterminate, or requiring further comparison, and he appears to be *now* satisfied as to their age. Their reference to the later period tends to reduce the interest which the discovery of Devonian forms would have possessed, on account of the absence of recognizable Devonian rocks, in that or the adjacent country.

Dr. Waagen's paper, however, differs from my own in describing these fossils as having been found in concretions, not in pebbles, and as occurring *in situ* in the *Conularia* layer. Upon this point rest very extensive and important deductions, and it is one upon which some uncertainty seems to have prevailed, leading both Dr. Warth and Dr. Waagen to reconsider matters and to change their minds: hence I am glad to learn we may expect to hear further about the matter from the officers of the Geological Survey of India.

Dr. Waagen's latest announcements, as above stated, seem to date from the end of last year or the very commencement of 1886. Dr. Warth, writing to me with specimens from this layer (and some others) under date Dec. 1, 1885, strongly maintains that the fossils are not *in situ*, but derived, and in support of this he calls attention to one of the specimens, a single rolled fossil *Conularia*, which itself formed one of the pebbles of the layer. Turning to the specimens I received (and they were few), I found they consisted of fine, pale, non-calcareous sandstone, presenting no signs of concretionary structure, their smoothed surfaces intersecting the inclosed fossils, while the special example referred to has all the appearance of a once more perfect fossil detached from its matrix, abraded and rolled till its general form alone remains, with just sufficient of its original markings to show certainly what it is. Another of the same kind shows only the outer form, and greater abrasion.

On this confirmatory evidence I adhere to the view expressed in my paper as to the derived or *remanié* character of the *Conularia* layer, until something more conclusive is brought forward than has been yet produced.

The "Olive group" of the Salt-range which contains this *Conularia* layer, from its circumstances of position and from a few of its fossils, found in a determinable state, was classified by Dr. Waagen and myself as probably of Cretaceous age, before he left the Punjab.

It has been recorded for years that certain Boulder-beds, lying just beneath this *Conularia* layer, and included in the Olive group, contain glaciated blocks, and resemble the Talchir Boulder-beds of the Gondwana series in Peninsular India; also that there are in other parts of the Range, and at different vertical positions in its sections, Boulder-beds of very similar aspect.

I have never found reason to believe that the stratigraphic relations of these Salt-range Boulder-beds supports the idea now advanced, that all occur upon one and the same horizon; and I must say I am still unconvinced of the fact, while admitting that this would be both important and interesting if proved.

KINGSTOWN, 19th March, 1886.

A. B. WYNNE.

#### THE PALÆONTOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

STR,—The fortieth volume of the Memoirs of the Palæontographical Society is now in progress; with the current year the series will have completed the number generally assigned to a period of probation. That it has well endured the trial of time none can deny. The unremunerated labours of many of the leading palæontologists of Britain have enriched their fellow-workers with a series of monographs, sometimes dealing with various genera or classes, sometimes presenting a synoptic view of certain portions of the fauna or flora of an important Geological period. To these workers and to all who have taken an active part in the direction of the Palæontographical Society, geologists, not of Great Britain only, are deeply indebted. Never, we may confidently assert, has so magnificent a series of admirably illustrated monographs been placed in the hands of students or at so low a price. For an annual subscription of one guinea, a bulky volume is received, containing usually about thirty plates and three hundred pages of letterpress. At the present time monographs are in preparation or in progress on Pleistocene Mammals and Old Red Sandstone Fishes, on Jurassic Ammonites and Gasteropods, on Cretaceous Starfishes, on Palæozoic Sponges and on the Flora, both of the Carboniferous and of the Eocene periods. There is evidently no failure either in material or in writers. Moreover, up to the present time the Society has successfully paid its way and has occasionally had a small balance to the good. Death however of late years has unfortunately removed many of the original subscribers, and new members come in more slowly than might have been expected. Accordingly the Secretary announced at the last meeting of the Council that very shortly, unless there was a substantial increase in the number of subscribers, the quantity of matter