

I had always regarded the Ennerdale granophyre as being the acid differentiate of the Borrowdales, intruded in semi-plutonic form. In this connection the findings of the Survey with regard to the age of the Carrock Fell mass, which shows many similar features, will be intensely interesting. It is to be hoped that their publication will not be long delayed.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE MECHANICS OF MOUNTAINS.

SIR,—In the October number of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, Dr. Harold Jeffreys independently develops a superficial-slip explanation for the far-travelled nappes so often encountered in mountain chains. He will be pleased to learn that his hypothesis has been repeatedly applied by leading alpinists. Let us take, for instance, the interpretation of the Prealps, as stated in detail by Schardt in 1898. This author considered that the Prealpine nappes had performed most of their journey after they had parted company with their roots (“*Les régions exotiques du versant nord des Alpes suisses*,” *Bull. Soc. vaudoise des Sci. nat.*, xxxiv, 211–14). One may paraphrase his conclusion by comparing the Prealpine klippen with a Hawaiian surf-rider, mounted on his board, and skilfully gliding down the forward slope of an advancing wave. Substantially the same view was adopted by Argand in 1916, as English readers may readily appreciate on consulting Argand’s diagrams of that date reproduced in Collet’s *Structure of the Alps*, p. 20. From the Prealpine klippen of the western Alps one’s thoughts naturally turn to the Window of the Hohe Tauern farther east. Here Suess—like most of us a convinced believer in the reality of the window—has asserted: it “is too large to have been produced by erosion”, it has instead been forced open by a doming of the over-ridden foundation (*Face of the Earth*, iv, 171, 177). I do not myself follow Schardt, Argand, Suess, etc., when they speak in this fashion, but I do think it is important to keep their views clearly in sight, and I welcome Dr. Jeffreys’ advocacy as likely to throw fresh light upon the subject.

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