

## POST-GLACIAL.

SIR.—In your August Number, my friend and colleague Mr. H. B. Woodward reasserts that *Elephas antiquus*, *E. primigenius*, etc., are not known from beds whose age is certainly Post-Glacial.

Regarding the valley of the Thames as entirely posterior to the latest trace of glacial conditions in Britain, I must regard the lower terraces, which contain the fauna in question, as very late Post-Glacial deposits, and I think that some of those in the Colchester district, certainly that at Lexden, are still more recent.

But leaving the Thames valley out of the question, the Colne valley and the Lexden deposit therein settle the age of the fauna we have to deal with. The country consists of London Clay, with a thin irregular coating of gravel (Middle Glacial) and an upper coating of the Chalky Boulder Clay, to which formation none who have duly examined it assign other than a marine origin. The Colne valley cuts through the Glacial beds into the London Clay, and its bottom is occupied, as usual, with alluvial meadows. A few feet above the alluvium, there occur at intervals, on either side of the valley, remnants of older alluvial terraces, consisting, like the modern ones, of gravel, loam, peat, etc.

That at Lexden, at not more than 40 feet above the present river-bed, furnished remains of the two Elephants named above, and of insects indicating a warmer climate than the present. The Chalky Boulder Clay is to my mind the last scene of the Glacial Period in Britain, the Hesse Clay being, so to speak, the last speech in that scene, so that the Colne valley is wholly Post-Glacial, still more so its deposits. Palæolithic Man lived on its slopes and doubtless slew the deer and other game, whilst the *burnt stone* found in the Lexden brickearth seems to indicate that an ancestor of the immortal Soyer was in the neighbourhood when *Elephas primigenius*, approaching his favourite drinking place in the swamps of the Colne, incautiously “put his foot in it,” and remained, till Mr. Fisher found him, a *standing* warning to those who are insufficiently acquainted with the nature of Post-Glacial deposits to confine themselves to more solid ground.

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An Anonymous Correspondent has forwarded us the following List of papers *not read* at the British Association, Swansea.

*Ramsay*. On the Occurrence of masses of baked pudding-stone in an old Lake-Basin.

*Pengelly*. Discovery of Punfield Beds in another Cavern near Torquay.

*Whitaker*. The Perfection of the Geological Record.

*Dawkins*. Early Man in French beds.

*Lee*. Another Cove with fishes in the Old Red Sandstone.

*Percy*. The Use of the Divining Rod on the Geological Survey.

*Barrett*. Spirit-levelling: its application in a geological section.

*Hull and Kinahan*. On Faults and Disturbances in Ireland.

*Hicks*. A Lode on Saddle-back.

*Croll*. Bi-Cycles and Geological Time.

*Burnaby*. The Distribution of the Cockle in past times.

*Taylor*. Half-hour's knapping in a Chalk-pit.

ERRATUM.—GEOL. MAG. for July, 1880, page 301, line 2, for *Port Dinorwic* read *Carnarvon*.