

better preservation of lake-basins in glaciated countries from silting up and from becoming thus obliterated, while in some glaciated regions lakes are wanting.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE BRIDLINGTON CRAG.

SIR,—There seems to be some misapprehension about the Bridlington Crag.

In the Geological Record for 1878, on page 3, there occurs the following passage: "Confirms the succession given by Mr. Lamplugh that the 'Crag' bed lies on the blue clay or basement bed, but is below the snuff-coloured laminated clay, while the purple clay is above the last."

Now Mr. Lamplugh has conclusively shown that the Bridlington Crag is not a bed at all, but a series of patches, boulders in fact, included in the so-called Basement Clay.

The bed or beds whence the shells were originally derived, if still existing, has never yet been seen. I say "or beds" because shells that lived at different depths have been brought together at Bridlington.

J. R. DAKYNS.

MELMERBY, PENRITH.

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DR. RICKETTS.—ON SUBSIDENCE AND ACCUMULATION.

SIR,—In connexion with the subject of Mr. Jamieson's paper on the Cause of the Depression and Re-elevation of the Land during the Glacial Period (*GEOL. MAG.* Sept. and Oct. 1882), it may be interesting to re-direct attention to a paper by Dr. Charles Ricketts, On Subsidence as the Effect of Accumulation (*GEOL. MAG.* Dec. I. Vol. IX. p. 119); and to his presidential address to the Liverpool Geological Society in 1872, on Valleys, Deltas, Bays, and Estuaries. He has, in the latter paper, expressed his opinion that during the Glacial period the combined weight of ice and boulder-clay would produce subsidence of the land; and again, in speaking of deltas, he concluded that the steady accumulation of mud would in the end cause subsidence, gradual and imperceptible at first, but under certain conditions perhaps sudden.

The observations of Messrs. G. and H. Darwin, noticed in a late number of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, by Prof. Milne, show that the crust of our earth is more susceptible than we imagined when, ten years ago (*GEOL. MAG.* Vol. X. pp. 88 and 141), we ventured to criticize somewhat unfavourably the views then put forward by Dr. Ricketts.

H. B. W.

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TERRACES IN DORSET.

SIR,—There are to be seen on the sides of the valleys in Dorset a number of terraces, which are, I believe, a peculiar geological feature of that and a neighbouring county. I have never yet seen a satisfactory theory as to their origin. It has been asserted that they are old fortifications; also that they have been formed by the plough. Whether the sea-beach or lake-beach theory has ever been