

of both botany and geology in the field. She was an active supporter of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, and did much in the organization of winter courses of lectures and practical work dealing with stratigraphy and petrography. Her original observations and records were mostly concerned with the sources of material in the Glacial deposits of Northern Ireland. In 1900 she married M. Rodolphe Christen, a Swiss artist, and she produced after his death, which occurred six years later, a finely illustrated work devoted to his memory (Longmans Green & Co., 1910). In her home, among the hills near Ballater, Madame Christen never lost her interest in geology, and the last of many continental journeys undertaken by her was to the volcanoes of Auvergne in 1922. She died in the fullness of years; but the years to come need spirit and inspiration such as hers.

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G. A. J. C.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BASE OF THE DEVONIAN.

SIR,—Most geologists will, I think, agree that Dr. Stamp has made out a *primâ facie* case for his correlation of the rocks at the base of the Devonian. Whether the Downtonian and Schistes de Mondrepuits and the other beds correlated with them should be regarded as Silurian or Devonian has still to be determined. The remarkable similarity of the fauna of the Downtonian of Scotland with that of the Old Red Beds that overlie them constitutes a strong point in favour of the view for which he contends. Might not the most satisfactory solution be to regard the strata in dispute as passage beds between the two formations?

I am sorry to see the "Welsh Lake" and "Lake Caledonia" make their reappearance. I thought that it was now agreed that the typical Old Red Sandstone deposits were laid down by streams or short-lived lagoons, usually of a local character.

Is there any reason to suppose that the south-eastern shore line of the Silurian Sea of the Welsh border was continued as an east and west ridge in the neighbourhood of the Bristol Channel? Even if it was, it could not have formed the boundary between the Old Red Sandstone and Devonian types of sedimentation except for a comparatively short period. At the time when the Foreland

Grits, most of the Hangman Grits, and the Pickwell Down Sandstone were laid down the boundary was situated to the south of North Devon. Again, the Dartmouth slates in North Cornwall yield the distinctively freshwater fish *Climatius*, *Parexus*, and *Phlyctænaspis*, while in South Cornwall they show a mixture of forms. The Givetian and Frasnian seem to have no beds of corresponding age north of the Bristol Channel, while in the Upper Famennian the waters of the sea extended as far north as Pembrokeshire.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INQUIRIES.

The Honorary Secretary of the Geophysical Committee of the Royal Astronomical Society desires to call attention to the Geophysical Supplement to the *Monthly Notices*. Up to the present three numbers have appeared, containing papers on Seismology (6), Wireless Time Signals (2), the Elastic Stability of the Earth, Map Projections, Terrestrial Magnetism, and the Variation of Latitude (one each); price 7s. 6d. in all. Non-Fellows may obtain copies on application to the Assistant Secretary, R.A.S., Burlington House, London, W. 1.
