| | |
|---|---|
| Si O$_2$ . . . . . . . | 26·00 |
| Al$_2$O$_3$ . . . . . . . | 40·05 |
| Fe O . . . . . . . | 19·50 |
| Fe$_2$O$_3$ . . . . . . . | 5·05 |
| Mg O . . . . . . . | 2·88 |
| Loss on ignition . . . . | 6·00 |
| | |
| Total . . . . | 99·48 |

The author discusses some of the published analyses, and suggests that many of the discrepancies may be due to impurities in the material analyzed.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE AGE OF THE RAND BEDS.

SIR,—In the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, 1897, p. 549, Mr. W. Gibson states that I have obtained fossils of doubtful Carboniferous age from a dolomite associated with the Gat's Rand Beds. I am not aware of having made such a statement, and it certainly does not occur in the paper alluded to ("The Occurrence of Dolomite in South Africa," Q.J.G.S., vol. L, p. 561). In fact, so far as I am aware, no fossils of any kind have hitherto been discovered in the Dolomite of this country.                                          DAVID DRAPER.

JOHANNESBURG, *Dec.* 31, 1897.

### THE OCCURRENCE OF *PLACOPARIA* IN THE SKIDDAW SLATES.

SIR,—In the course of my work on the Graptolite Fauna of the Skiddaw Slates I have come across two specimens of the trilobite *Placoparia*. No mention of this form is made by Postlethwaite and Goodchild in their paper on the " Trilobites of the Skiddaw Slates " (Proc. Geol. Assoc., vol. ix, p. 455), and as it is known to be characteristic of a definite horizon in other localities, it seems worth while to place on record the occurrence of this genus in the Lake District. The specimens in question come from two different localities, Outerside and Ellergill, and are in the Woodwardian Museum. The Ellergill specimen is a recent gift from Professor H. A. Nicholson.                                 GERTRUDE L. ELLES.

WOODWARDIAN MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE, *February*, 1898.

## OBITUARY.

### OSCAR FRIEDRICH VON FRAAS.

BORN JANUARY 17, 1824.          DIED NOVEMBER 22, 1897.

WE regret to announce the death of the veteran geologist Dr. Oscar von Fraas, of Stuttgart, Director of the Royal Würtemberg Museum of Natural History. He was born at Lorch, in Swabia, in 1824, and after his ordinary education at school he proceeded to the University of Tübingen. There he devoted special attention to