CORRESPONDENCE.

FRESH-WATER OSTRACODS IN THE LOWER CARBONIFEROUS SERIES OF AYRSHIRE.

SIR,—On Friday last I found a bed of fresh-water Ostracoda, in the strata exposed in the Gurdy cutting of the railway from Giffen to Kilbirnie.

The beds exposed are as follows:—

	ft.	ins.
Highest *marine* limestone seen in the cutting.		
Black shale, tough	1	8
Dark shale	0	8
Dark shale crowded with fresh-water Ostracoda	0	9
Dark shale	1	6
Sandstone with *Stigmaria*	3	6
Thick bed of dark shale with abundance of *marine* fossils.		
Limestone with *marine* fossils.		

Many of the Ostracoda are filled with *pyrites*, but the valves are *calcareous*; and they often fall off when touched with the point of a needle. The carapaces are usually white, giving the shale a sandy appearance; sometimes they are brown. They occur mostly as single valves.

I believe this is the first time that fresh-water Ostracoda have been found in connection with the marine limestones of Ayrshire. The position of the beds is in the upper part of the Lower Carboniferous Limestone Series of Ayrshire.

Mr. Robert Craig has described the strata of the Gurdy cutting in the Trans. Geol. Soc. Glasgow, vol. ix, p. 64. J. SMITH.

MONKREDDING KILWINNING, *Sept.* 20, 1897.

TRINUCLEUS SETICORNIS.

SIR,—Mr. Marr's letter requires a final answer. When a fossil is not recorded from a certain horizon it is naturally believed that it has really not been found on that horizon. It is almost needless to say that when subsequent research proves an earlier statement to be wrong we consider that the author of it made an unavoidable mistake — unavoidable because of the imperfect knowledge of that time, but a mistake nevertheless in the light of present knowledge. Such mistakes must, of course, be frequent in the progress of any science, particularly in the case of the range of fossils. With regard to the range of the species in question, I have declined to be drawn into an argument, because I find several distinct forms are included under this name by different authors. F. R. COWPER REED.

CAMBRIDGE, *October* 4, 1897.

A QUESTION OF NOMENCLATURE: CHEMICAL NAME FOR H_2O.

SIR,—In writing of the volatile constituents of an igneous magma, paste, or lava, of which the gas of H_2O forms the greater and most important part, I do not know what term should be used in ordinary parlance, as such words as water, water-gas, steam, vapour, simply imply definite physical states of H_2O. Now in a lava under moderate pressure H_2O may exist as steam in the form of bubbles

scattered through it, but under a sufficiently high pressure it is dissolved in the paste or magma, and then it is neither steam, vapour, or water, though frequently spoken of as such. It seems to me that we have no reason to consider it otherwise than an oxide of hydrogen, and that we should speak and write of *Hydrogen oxide or Hydric oxide dissolved in the magma.* Up to the present I have got over the difficulty by writing and speaking of it as H_2O, but such gives me the feeling of looking pedantic on paper or sounding queer in words. I should be grateful, therefore, for any expression of opinion as to why *Hydric oxide* would not do, and any suggestion for a better term. H. J. Johnston-Lavis.

Beaulieu, A.-M., France, *Sept.* 29, 1897.

OBITUARY.

JAMES WINDOES, OF CHIPPING NORTON.

Born 1839. Died Sept. 26, 1897.

We regret to record the death, at the age of 58, of the enthusiastic collector of fossils, James Windoes. Born at Woodstock in 1839, he settled in Chipping Norton some thirty years ago, during the whole of which time he was employed in the glove manufactory of Messrs. B. Bowen and Son. From childhood he manifested a great interest in fossils, but having no advantages of education, he had to pursue his studies entirely unaided. All his spare time was devoted to the search after and study of fossils, and probably no man living had a minuter knowledge of the strata and their organic remains in this part of Oxfordshire. Although of an exceedingly retiring disposition, yet he was always pleased to show his collection to anyone interested in it. Probably few people in Chipping Norton were aware that in a cottage in Albion Street could be seen a collection of fossils and antiquities, unique in its way; but Mr. Windoes was well known to the late Professor Phillips and Mr. T. Beesley, as well as to Mr. Hudleston, Mr. E. A. Walford, and others, who have acknowledged the valuable assistance rendered by him.

When the railway was constructed between Banbury and Cheltenham, Mr. Windoes obtained a fine series of fossils from the junction-beds of the Lower and Middle Lias. The specimens of *Cypricardia intermedia* were exceptionally well preserved. Again, at Hook Norton in the Upper Lias, and at Chipping Norton in various divisions of the Inferior and Great Oolites, he worked long and zealously, obtaining many fossils, and notably fine examples of *Trigonia signata* from the Inferior Oolite of Heythrop. Another species obtained from this formation was named *Trigonia Windoesi* by Dr. Lycett.

Notwithstanding his somewhat humble circumstances, Mr. Windoes could not be induced to dispose of any of his duplicate fossils otherwise than by gift or exchange. The present writer (who is indebted for some of the above particulars to the *Banbury Guardian* of September 30) well remembers the difficulty he at first had in procuring some specimens for the Museum of Practical