

overgrown and concealed in the adjacent woodland. I found afterwards that most of the Iron-sand fossils preserved in the Geological Survey Museum at Jermyn Street, collected many years ago, are labelled "Combe Wood," and are in all respects like those which I obtained from the wall; they were probably got when the quarry was open. This flaggy iron-grit may possibly form part of the supposed Purbeck deposit of Combe Wood described by Fitton and mentioned by Professor Phillips, though more probably it has been obtained from the sands just above that horizon.

I was able to devote only a very short time to the examination of the material, but noticed that the fauna, though rich in individuals, was scanty in species. A more thorough investigation is, however, highly desirable, especially as the relation of this fresh-water fauna to the marine Lower Greensand stands in great need of elucidation.

G. W. LAMPLUGH.

BRIDLINGTON QUAY.

November 4th, 1902.

‘CALCRETE.’

SIR,—“Murder will out,” whether of person or language, and the appearance in the October number of the *Irish Naturalist* of a new word for which I am responsible makes requisite an open confession. The word is ‘calcrete,’ applied in this instance by a friend who has become accustomed to the term through our conversation, and has trustfully used it as a ‘good’ word in describing the shelly drift-gravels near Dublin. The indiscretion will be repeated, by my colleagues as well as myself, in the forthcoming new edition of the Geological Survey Memoir on the neighbourhood of Dublin, and preliminary explanation and definition seems therefore desirable. In the drifts around Dublin, as in most places where in like manner limestone-débris enters largely into the composition of the superficial deposits, the sand-and-gravel beds are often cemented sporadically into hard masses by solution and redeposition of lime through the agency of infiltrating waters. In order to indicate this condition on the field-maps a terse expression was sought to replace such long and awkward circumlocutions as ‘conglomerated gravel,’ ‘calcareous concreted gravel,’ etc., and for this purpose the abbreviation ‘calcrete’ was invented and found adequate. Other workers under similar conditions may find the word equally serviceable, and to them I therefore recommend it.

Moreover, I have the hardihood to suggest that the term might be complemented by equivalents,—‘silcrete,’ for sporadic masses in loose material of the ‘greywether’ type, indurated by a siliceous cement; and ‘ferricrete’ when the binding substance is an iron-oxide. I will grant that these terms are etymologically somewhat imperfect, but the inconvenience of an additional syllable would be a more weighty objection where expressive brevity is of prime consequence.

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