CORRESPONDENCE

THE MAPPING OF HEAD DEPOSITS

SIR,—The authors of the paper entitled "The Mapping of Head Deposits", published in the last issue of the *Geological Magazine*, are indebted to Dr. F. J. North for calling their attention to an omission from the Historical section of references to papers by Strangways and Buckland. These were both read in 1819 and published in *Trans. Geol. Soc.*, First Ser., vol. v, 1821.

Both of these authors use the terms Diluvium and Alluvium, and give definitions. Mantell, referred to in the Head paper as being the first to give a scientific description of "head" deposits, quoted, to some extent, from Buckland, who had previously quoted from Strangways.

H. G. DINES.

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REVIEWS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GEOGRAPHY OF EGYPT. By JOHN BALL. Ministry of Finance. Survey and Mines Department. Cairo, 1939. Price 10*s.* 6*d.*

Well over half of this important memoir is devoted to geology. Most of the rest deals with the solid matter transported by the Nile and with the characters and age of the resulting alluvium, a subject intimately concerning geologists.

Chapter 2, "Egypt in past geological ages," comprises in twenty-five pages the most up-to-date account yet written of the geology of Egypt and is a masterpiece of compression. Chapter 3 offers in another twenty-five pages a critical account of the Nile terraces and raised beaches, and the light they throw on Palaeolithic man and such questions as the age of the Isthmus of Suez. Chapter 4 is the most original and perhaps the most important contribution in the book. One of the major problems confronting students of the Nile Valley Pleistocene deposits has been the sudden influx of vast quantities of silt in the Sebilian or Upper Palaeolithic period. It is piled up to 100 feet above the present flood-plain at Wadi Halfa and chokes the mouths of the dry tributary wadies. Its surface sinks gradually northwards