

growth or accretion is such as occurs in Annulose and not in Molluscan shells. One of the specimens contains a *Ditrupe* and a *Spirorbis* both of which exhibit precisely the same kind of microscopic structure."<sup>1</sup>

While some of the supposed patelliform shells cannot be placed among the Mollusca, one form, of which there are two specimens, is very well preserved and distinct. It is referred by Gwyn Jeffreys to the genus *Hipponyx*, of which no upper valves were known previously from any strata below the Maestricht Limestone, although the lower valves or shelly bases had been met with in both the Chalk and Greensand in England.

They are from the Glauconitic Marls of the Black Mountain, Belfast, from the zone of *Pecten asper* of Barrois.

I have also received within the past week a new *Emarginula* from the Grey Chalk near Folkestone, which differs markedly from the only form hitherto known, *E. Gresslyi*, from that locality. I hope to illustrate both these in a future number of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.

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#### COMPARATIVE PHYTOLOGY.

SIR,—Some very indistinct impressions, or rather remains of leaves, were forwarded to me from the well-known hazel-nut bed of Brook in the Isle of Wight, under the supposition that they might prove to be leaves of the beech. It is interesting to record that Baron von Ettingshausen found himself able to at once pronounce them to be leaves of *Corylus*, although he was quite unaware that they had been found associated with the nuts, and therefore recognized them entirely from what could be traced of their venation, for the outline and margin were almost wholly obliterated.

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#### THE TERM "SCHIST."

SIR,—I feel rather perplexed by some observations on the term "schist" made by Mr. Allport in the GEOL. MAG. for this month. A great deal of confusion at present prevails as to the exact meaning of the word, and the progress of our knowledge, as I know by experience, is impeded by the want of a fixed meaning. Following Jukes, I have usually confined the terms "schist" and "schistose" to a rock possessing true foliation, as defined by Darwin, and approved by Mr. Allport. But when I have come to study certain "schists" in the field, I have found them to be simply laminated or cleaved, and therefore not schists, but shales or slates. It has appeared to me that we could not do better than adhere to Jukes's summary of the different kinds of fissile structure: "the *foliation* of schist, the *cleavage* of slate, and the *lamination* of shale." I was accordingly cast in doubt on finding that so high an authority as Mr. Allport used "schistose" as equivalent to "fissile," and affirmed that "the term schist certainly ought not to imply or include foliation." I confess I do not see why the word "fissile" could not be used for rocks which do not come into Jukes's triad, leaving as "schistose" undecomposed and unmetamor-

<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Gwyn Jeffreys's report of the *Valorous* Expedition, Proc. R.S. 1876.