

In a communication entitled "Pseudo-Scolites" (*Research*, April 1, 1889) I pointed out that such tubes or "foralites" might be seen in great numbers on sloping, sandy beaches, especially when the sand covers a deposit of shingle, and that they were simply vents formed in the wet sand by the escaping air, which was compressed by the advancing waves. In a given slope of shingle, covered with a layer of wet sand, there is a certain quantity of air, and this, on being compressed by an advancing wave, escapes through the wet sand at the surface. The advance of the wave increases the pressure, and the confined air escapes from the weakest points at the surface of the sand. From the vents thus produced the air issues with considerable energy, as bubbles forced through the water of a retreating wave often show. The receding tide leaves many of these miniature blow-holes intact, and frequently with a crater-like ridge of sand around their orifices. In some cases these tubes were 4 or 5 inches in depth, and on the more level parts of a beach where firm sand prevailed they were filled up with fine mud, Foraminifera, and minute fragments of shell, etc. Under favourable circumstances these tubes might be preserved from future obliteration.

Such tubes might also be formed in unindurated inland deposits by the escape of compressed gases caused by the decomposition of organic matter, chemical reactions, and by steam escaping from heated areas.

C. CARUS-WILSON.

ALTMORE, WALDEGRAVE PARK,
STRAWBERRY HILL.
November 13, 1917.

NOTE BY DR. BATHER.

I must apologise for having omitted all reference to Dr. Carus-Wilson's previously published observations, due, I regret to say, to pure ignorance of them on my part and presumably also on the part of Professor Högbom, with whose account they entirely agree. The pipe-rock of Sutherland is so well known to British geologists that it was hardly necessary for me to mention it. Dr. Carus-Wilson's reference to it is apparently intended to suggest that the horizontal position of some of the tubes in the Tasmanian rocks may be due to subsequent movement. On this point I have no evidence.

F. A. BATHER.

BORING FOR COAL AT PRESTEIGN.

SIR,—The alleged discovery of buried stores of coal at the Presteign lime-kilns, suggested by Professor Watts (*Geol. Mag.*, 1917, p. 552) as the origin of the local delusion that a bed of coal crops out there, is a possible explanation; but it is remarkable and lamentable that no tradition of the lime-burning survived among the unfortunate subscribers. Some such storing of fuel may account also for the local belief in the existence of coal at Cadwell, 3 miles E.N.E. of Presteign, where pieces of coal in the soil above a quarry in Wenlock mudstones and nodular limestones (containing the usual fossils) were visible in 1915. The coal may have been taken there to burn lime at some remote period.

Although well aware of the interesting paper on the Old Radnor district by Professor Garwood and Miss Goodyear, I refrained from alluding to it, because it bears on a different locality, and (to judge by the abstract) deals more particularly with an abnormal facies of the Woolhope Limestone—a matter with which I was not concerned. My reason for quoting the earlier authorities was to show how completely the so-called practical men who promoted the scheme had ignored what was already known about their own neighbourhood.

T. C. CANTRILL.

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December 13, 1917.

THE KYSON MONKEY.

SIR,—In an important paper published recently by Professor Boswell in the *Journal of the Ipswich and District Field Club* ("The Geology of the Woodbridge District, Suffolk"), vol. v, pt. i, pp. 1–12, it is stated (p. 1) in reference to the Eocene sand of Kyson, near Woodbridge, that "Prestwich found the remains of a monkey (*Macacus eocænus*) in this bed". This, however, is incorrect. In Owen's *British Fossil Mammals and Birds* (1846), on p. 3, he wrote: "The fossils manifesting quadrumanous characters were discovered, in 1839, by Mr. William Colchester . . . in the parish of Kingston—commonly called Kyson—in Suffolk."

A further reference is made to this discovery in the *Memoirs of the Geological Survey (The Geology of the Country around Ipswich, Hadleigh, and Felixstowe)*. On p. 26, in describing the Kyson beds, it is stated: ". . . the section was exposed in 1839 at the brick-yard at Kingston or Kyson"; then follow details of the section and a list of the Eocene mammals found. Amongst these is mentioned "*Hyracotherium cuniculus*, Owen (first called *Macacus eocænus*)". Lower down on p. 26 it is stated "The complete section is given by Prof. Prestwich, from whose paper the above details are given". Finally, on p. 143, appears the following: "145. Owen, (Sir) R. 'On the *Hyracotherian* character of the Lower Molars of the supposed *Macacus* from the Eocene Sand of Kyson, Suffolk': *Ann. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 3, vol. x, p. 240."

It thus seems clear (1) that the so-called *Macacus* remains were not found by Prestwich, but by Mr. Colchester; (2) that further examination of these remains established the fact that they were not referable to *Macacus* at all, but to *Hyracotherium cuniculus*; and (3) that Professor Prestwich made the foregoing facts clear in a paper published by him in 1850 (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. vi, pp. 272, 273).

As there are apparently some investigators who still believe that quadrumanous remains have been found in the Eocene of Suffolk, I venture to bring this matter before geologists so that the error may be eliminated.

J. REID MOIR.

November 26, 1917.