

Sandhurst; gentlemen who have proved that they are qualified to give accurate descriptions of the topography and geology of the country.

R. BROUGH SMYTH.

MELBOURNE, 18th May, 1871.

CONCRETIONARY STRUCTURE IN PLASTER.

SIR,—The concretionary structure in plaster noticed by your correspondent Benwyman has been frequently noticed by me, as it must have been by many. I do not think that the explanation given by him, that it results from segregation or crystallization, can be the true one; for if that were so, the nuclei of the concretions should be *inside* the plaster; whereas I think they will be observed to be external. The concretions resemble saucers nested, rather than spherical shells nested. I have been used to attribute the appearance to the habit that plasterers have of casting the mortar on with a dash, so that it spreads from a central spot in concentric waves around. Thus the particles of the mortar are arranged in shallow saucer-shaped layers. And possibly, owing to some mechanical law in the distribution of the pressure from the central spot towards the periphery of the lump thrown on, the density of the mortar may alternately be greater and less in successive layers; and it is even possible that an arrangement of the particles analogous to cleavage may be produced. The subsequent passage of the smoothing tool over the whole obliterates the structure superficially, but time reveals it again by the process of weathering.

O. FISHER.

DENUDATON OF THE SHROPSHIRE COAL-FIELD.

We are favoured by Mr. John Randall, F.G.S., of Madeley, Salop, with a lengthened criticism upon a paper by Mr. Daniel Jones, F.G.S., "On the Denudation of the Coalbrook-dale Coal-field," published at p. 200 of our May number.¹ Mr. Randall states that the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Jones are identical with those of Mr. Scott, Sir R. Murchison, and himself as unmistakably shown by the sections published by Mr. Scott (Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., 1861, vol. 17, p. 457), and that Mr. Purton has since figured the same thing (see GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, 1865, Vol. II., p. 515).

Mr. Randall always held the opinion "that denudation took place prior to the general elevation of the Coal-field and the great faults by which it is intersected." The quotation from Mr. Randall's letter to the *Mining Journal*, given by Mr. Jones, refers to "one particular case on the eastern boundary of the Shropshire Coal-field, showing evidence of denudation and disturbance combined."

"The case refers exclusively to the Coals in the Halesfield and Kemberton pits, and not to the general question."

¹ Its earlier appearance has been delayed from want of space, and, indeed, we cannot now give Mr. Randall's criticism in full.

Mr. Randall equally objects to the section given by Mr. Jones (Fig. 1, p. 206), purporting to illustrate his views. Mr. Randall says: In this section "Mr. Jones leaves out altogether the Upper Coal-measures of which I had been speaking all along, but introduces them in another (Fig. 2, p. 206), which he says represents his own views."

Between the two paragraphs quoted by Mr. Jones from the *Mining Journal*, Mr. Randall says, "The following sentence has been omitted, which throws altogether a different light on the subject:— 'At several places they, that is the Permians, may be seen overlying the younger members of the Coal-measures south of the Old Coal Field, also the latter group where the younger are denuded.'" —EDIT. GEOL. MAG.

THE SUBMERGENCE OF IS.

SIR,—There is a curious work on the subject of Mr. Lebour's interesting paper,¹ which, if it be unknown to him, he, with others, may be glad to read. It contains a number of statements with reference to the subsidence of Brittany, some of which are so startling that one views them with a little suspicion. Perhaps the unworkmanlike style of making references, too common in French books, increases this feeling. The author maintains that in the thirteenth century Jersey was yet united, or almost united, to France. The book is "Les Mouvements de la Mer," by M. Quenault (Coutances, 1869. pp. 68). My attention was called to it by a review from the pen of Mr. Whitaker in "Nature," vol. i., p. 381.

T. G. BONNEY.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHAIR OF GEOLOGY, COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE, NEWCASTLE.—The Executive Committee of this new and promising institution have just completed the list of Professors, and we learn that Dr. David Page, alumnus and hon. LL.D. of the University of St. Andrew's, F.R.S. Edinburgh, F.G.S. etc., has been selected to fill the Chair of Geology. Dr. Page is well known as the author of numerous Geological Text-books, which have a very wide circulation; he has also published a very useful Glossary of Geological Terms. The subscriptions announced on behalf of the College now amount to £23,700.

ERRATUM.—GEOL. MAG. for July, p. 333, in Mr. Marshall Hall's letter on "Terraces in Norway," for "Moik Pors," read "Mörk Foss."

¹ Published in the GEOL. MAG. for July.