

attack. Mr. Barnes and Mr. Warren I have not the pleasure of knowing. From Mr. Moir I have personally experienced nothing but courtesy, and I have always had a high regard for his enthusiasm and sincerity. I am only sorry that he should descend to a style that will tend to discredit the views he advocates.

S. E. GLENDENNING.

84 ROSARY ROAD, NORWICH.
22nd November, 1923.

THE BASE OF THE DEVONIAN.

SIR,—Whilst recognizing the transitional nature of the Downtonian strata, I fear the suggestion made by Dr. Evans in your October issue to regard them as Passage Beds belonging neither to the Silurian nor to the Devonian hardly meets the case. This solution of the problem was, indeed, suggested long ago by Professor Hull (*Q.J.G.S.*, 1882, p. 200), but has met with little favour. It would not obviate the present confusion in such generalized accounts of the Silurian and Devonian faunas as appear in textbooks. It would further necessitate the separation of the equivalent beds in every part of the world.

The other points raised are answered, to some extent at least, in my recently published "Introduction to Stratigraphy", where my views on the relation between the Welsh and Cornubian Devonian are summarized (pp. 115–21). They accord almost exactly with those of Dr. Evans. Geographers do not hesitate to include as lakes such impersistent areas of water as occur in most desert regions—areas which often migrate from year to year—so surely there can be no objection to the use of the word to include "a deep mountain-girt basin into which poured raging torrents from the surrounding mountains" in Devonian times.

L. DUDLEY STAMP.

UNIVERSITY OF RANGOON.
3rd November, 1923.

FOSSILS FROM THE MIDLAND COALFIELDS.

SIR,—I have received several inquiries about various fossils in my collection from the Coal Measures of the Midland coalfields and about unpublished maps and sections of boreholes, to which I am unable to give a detailed reply because the collection, etc., has been boxed up and stored away for the past nine years during my absence in the desert. As I am leaving for the Far East within a few days, I request your assistance in making the following details known pending an opportunity either of completing the study begun in 1907 or of depositing the notes and collection in some public museum where they will be available to specialists.

With the exception of a few rare plants in the hands of Dr. R. Kidston, some of which have been described in part ii of memoir "Fossil Plants of the Carboniferous Rocks of Great Britain"; some