

CORRESPONDENCE.

PTEROCONUS MIRUS, HINDE.

SIR,—Last Spring Mr. Upfield Green allowed me to see the fossils to which he afterwards gave the name *Nereitopsis Cornubicus* in the Trans. Roy. Geol. Soc. Cornwall, vol. xii, p. 227, regarding them as Annelids. While studying them, point after point came out which forced me to the conclusion that they belonged either to *Orthoceras* or to a closely allied genus. The surface ornament, the contour, the septa, and other details seemed thus, and only thus, explicable. The chief perplexity was that, while the other parts were crushed and partially obliterated, the siphuncle remained rigid; but the consideration of *Actinoceras*, and still more *Huronia*, seemed almost to clear this away, and I felt able to tell Mr. Green that they were in my opinion certainly Cephalopoda.

With these fossils, or some of them, Dr. Hinde identifies those collected by Mr. Howard Fox at Bedruthan, to which he has given the name *Pteroconus mirus* on p. 149 of the present volume of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, regarding them as Hyolithidæ. These fossils he has very kindly shown to me, and with the identity of three of the specimens (his figs. 2, 3, 4) I agree, though still venturing, in spite of such weighty authorities as Dr. Hinde and Mr. Crick, to believe that I see in them Cephalopoda. The fossil represented by his fig. 1, I confess that in my hurried examination of it I could not fully decipher; nor did I feel quite certain that it was the same as the rest; but at the same time some Devonian Orthocerata which I have seen did appear as if they might go some way toward explaining it.

Fossils in such an extremely obscure state of preservation may, I think, allow of a different interpretation without disrespect to the authority of my valued friends; and, indeed, I think that my difference of view is mainly due to my regarding them as masked and distorted by the processes of fossilization to a very much greater extent than they appear to consider. G. F. WHIDBORNE.

FOSSILS IN DEVONIAN ROCKS OF NORTH CORNWALL.

SIR,—The fossils figured by Mr. Green in the Transactions of the Geological Society of Cornwall under the name of *Nereitopsis Cornubicus* being very interesting ones, their further illustration and description in the more widely circulating GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE is a matter of congratulation. But is the renaming of them quite in accordance with accepted rules of nomenclature? Dr. Hinde in his paper¹ mentions the fact that Mr. Green did not fully describe it; but many accepted names rest on figures alone. He also states that as, in his opinion, the fossils could not “in any way resemble any species of *Nereis*,” the name is “misleading and should be changed.” But has not the author of a genus the right to express in the name what the form reminds him of, even if the resemblance be fanciful?—e.g. *Ophiopsis*, *Pileopsis*, *Galeopsis*. And would not the new name proposed (*Pteroconus*) be open to the same objection,

¹ GEOL. MAG., Dec. IV, Vol. VII, p. 149.