

CORRESPONDENCE.

CYCLOPHYLLUM FUNGITES, FLEM. SP.

SIR,—In your report of the Meeting of the Geological Society of Glasgow, December 12, 1867 (GEOL. MAG. Vol. V. No. 3, p. 142), I find that Mr. John Young is made to assert that “Dr. Duncan’s figures reveal no new points in the structure of this coral which were not already known, etc., etc.” Mr. Young also appears to have stated that David Ure was the original discoverer of the genus in question, and that Professor M’Coy had clearly delineated the various parts constituting the internal organization of the coral. To these statements I must give my most unqualified contradiction.

It can be readily seen in David Ure’s good old book that he believed the curved horn-shaped coral in question was one of the “class *Coralloides*,” or “sub-marine plants,” and that it grew with its broad calicular end downwards. He called the coral *Fungites*, but gave neither a generic nor a specific name to it.

Fleming classified the coral in the genus *Turbinolia*, and gave it the specific name *fungites*. All subsequent generic names should be followed by Fleming’s specific name.

M’Coy described the coral, and a drawing of its anatomy appeared with the description in Sedgwick and M’Coy, Brit. Pal. Foss. 1855, plate 3C, figs. 5 and 5a. He named it *Clisiophyllum prolapsum*. He was neither justified in his genus nor in his change of the specific name. M’Coy neither drew nor saw what is so evident in the scores of sections which Mr. Thomson has prepared of the species of coral in question. M’Coy’s drawings of *Clisiophyllum* show a solid lamellar columella in the axis of the corals he properly described as belonging to that genus, but there is no such structure in his *Clisiophyllum prolapsum*.

There is a columella in the *Fungites* of Ure, the *Turbinolia fungites* of Fleming, the *Clisiophyllum prolapsum* of M’Coy,—it is not a solid lamella, but a series of ascending processes which pass from the base to the depression at the bottom of the calice, which is surrounded by the coronet of internal septa.

Milne Edwards and Jules Haime separated the “fungites” from the genus *Clisiophyllum*, and their specimens were not sufficiently well preserved or cut to enable them to discover the arrangement of the septa and columellary processes within the endothecal tissue which separates the coral into inner and outer portions.

Mr. Thomson and I claim these as new points, and considering that septal and columellary structures are of paramount importance in recent corals, we have a right to esteem them worthy of the consideration of all who have the slightest possible knowledge concerning the anatomy and physiology of the Zoantharia.

P. MARTIN DUNCAN.

LEE, S.E., March 13, 1868.

THE TRIAS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST.

SIR,—The paper in your last number, on Charnwood Forest, by the