

CORRESPONDENCE.

RECENT VOLCANIC ASH BEDS.

SIR,—On May 29th I examined some sections at Neilston, in Renfrewshire, pointed out to me by Mr. John Mackie, M.E., of that place. They are just to the east of the extensive Thread Works, and are exposed by the levelling of the ground for an extension of the same factory. The principal sections at present exposed are three in number :—

(a) Next the present works (north-west side of cutting) there is fine sand pretty regularly bedded, with a little cross-bedding, and blocks in it up to 5 feet in diameter.

(b) At the south-west side of cutting there is coarse gravel with a little sand—at some places with clay—with blocks up to 7 feet in diameter. The blocks are mostly traps of the neighbourhood; some of them are striated. I saw two fine-grained greywackes; and Mr. Mackie has had carted up to his garden a block of grey granite with large felspar crystals.

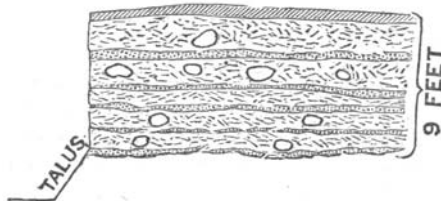
(c) The most interesting section of all is towards the south-east of the cutting. The material between it and the other two sections had been cut away before I saw it, so that its relative position to them could not be made out.

It is composed of Volcanic Ash Beds interlaminated with irregular beds and bands of loose sand. Part of the Ash occurs as consolidated masses apparently concreted in position (they do not appear to be bombs).

The ash is so pure, that it is difficult to understand how it could have come there unless it had been thrown out of a volcano; and the loose sand interbedded with it gives the deposit an exceedingly recent appearance.

There is nothing in the section to indicate its relationship to any known deposit, and it would be mere conjecture to suggest to what age the Ash Beds may belong; an exposure of perhaps 150 feet in length can be examined, and at one part I counted five beds of sand in a vertical face of ash of 9 feet in depth.

SURFACE OF GROUND.



Loose sand interbedded with Volcanic Ash, Neilston, Renfrewshire.

JOHN SMITH.

MONKREDDING, KILWINNING, *May 31, 1897.*