

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## CRYSTALLINE SCHISTS OF THE LEPONTINE ALPS.

SIR,—Permit me to express my sincere regret to Dr. Stapff for having abbreviated not only his name but also—what is worse—his life. How the second misconception arose I cannot tell, but it is certainly not a recent one. Perhaps I ought also to apologize for not referring to his papers more frequently, but the truth is that I have only seen one of them, and that (for reasons on which it is needless to enter) I had but little opportunity of consulting. For this neglect some of my fellow-workers will probably visit me with censure. Be it so, I can only say that I do not always find myself quoted “over the water,” and in this matter take as my maxim: *hanc veniam petimusque damusque vicissim*.

Except for this, my only purpose in writing, is to excuse myself from discussing at present Dr. Stapff's friendly and interesting communication. I am still at work on the subject of that singular complex of rocks in and about the Urserenthal, and cannot publish anything more till I have tested certain hypotheses on the ground. This I fear cannot be done during the present summer, since I anticipate that my steps must be turned in another direction, and I am not one of those fortunate persons who can undertake a long journey at pleasure in order to investigate a geological problem.

So I ask permission only to observe:—

(1.) That I do not deny the possibility of Jurassic rocks or Carboniferous rocks entering into the complex of the Urserenthal. But I doubt the occurrence of organisms in the Altkirche marble. Without seeing the slides, it would be difficult to express an opinion on the nature of the objects figured by Dr. Stapff on page 18 of this volume; the upper one certainly has an organic aspect; the lower strikes me as more doubtful. But the nature of the objects is not the only thing to be considered.

(2.) That, if I am right in understanding Dr. Stapff to assign the Piora schists to the Carboniferous system, this identification appears to me only an hypothesis. If there be any valid evidence in favour of it, this is unknown to me, while I am aware of some serious difficulties in which we should be landed by accepting it.

(3.) That, from what I know of crystalline rocks and their ways, I venture to doubt the accuracy of the identification (p. 17) of “rolled quartz grains (*sand*) in some beds of the Guspis micaceous gneiss.” For years I hunted for traces of an original elastic structure in gneisses and certain associated crystalline schists, longing to find them, but in vain. Again and again I have seen them curiously simulated here and there, by the results of pressure, and so, having been often taken in for a while, I have become rather sceptical.

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## CONCHOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.

SIR,—Mr. A. J. Jukes-Browne, in the January Number of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, takes objection to some points in Conchological Nomenclature adopted in the “Systematic List of the F. E.