

Southern Silurian region, Mr. Hopkinson will accept the undernoted grouping of the new species :—

MOFFAT GROUP,—

*Corynoides gracilis.*

*Graptolithus acutus.*

LEADHILLS GROUP,—

*Dendrograptus ramulus.*

*Diplograptus Etheridgii.*

*pinguis.*

*Diplograptus fimbriatus.*

*Hincksii.*

*Dicranograptus rectus.*

COMMON TO MOFFAT AND LEADHILLS

GROUP,—

*Graptolithus attenuatus.*

*Diplograptus penna.*

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,  
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R. L. JACK.

THE DIVINING ROD IN ESSEX.

SIR,—Mr. H. B. Woodward's surprise as to the existence of a belief in the powers of the Divining Rod will, I think, give way as he finds it is much more firmly believed in by west-country people than is commonly imagined. A few days ago I was travelling in company with a gentleman to whom I had been introduced, who is a civil engineer and architect. He was telling me of some borings he had to conduct in Essex, in the London-clay, for water. I immediately referred him to Mr. W. Whitaker's recently published memoir on the London Basin, in which is given such a copious list of well and other borings, thinking these might help him. I was replied to with a smile of self-satisfaction, and presently informed that when he wished to find water, he always used a forked hazel wand, which plainly and distinctly "turned in his hand" in the direction where water lay, and that he had never known this plan to fail! My purpose in writing is to recommend the practice to the Geological Survey, so that a corps of hazel-wand explorers might be formed and drilled! It would be a novelty to have a "Professor of the Divining Rod" at Jermyn Street!

IPSWICH.

J. E. TAYLOR.

CORALLINE CRAG FOSSILS.

SIR,—As Dr. Allman has not confirmed the statement made in the GEOL. MAG. (anté p. 337) respecting the presence of *Purpura lapillus* in the Coralline Crag, I presume the name of that species cannot be introduced into my Catalogue.

*Hydractinia* is a fossil not very rare in the Coralline Crag, and I have also found it in the Red Crag, but in this latter formation it is possibly a derivative from the older bed. The shell this Hydroid has generally selected for investiture is *Trophon consociata* (Crag Moll., vol. i., p. 49, tab. vi. f. 11): a specimen now in my possession has nearly half the shell exposed. This fossil has been long known, and the name of it was inserted in my "Catal. of Zoophytes from the Crag" (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. vol. xiii. p. 21, 1844), as *Aleyonidium circumvestiens*. The generic name *Aleyonidium*, Lamouroux, was adopted by Dr. Geo. Johnston in his work on the British Zoophytes, where, at p. 304, he describes *Aleyonium echinatum* of Montagne and Fleming, and of which a very indifferent and incorrect figure is given. He there speaks of the papillæ as "arranged in rows," but those upon the fossil not having that regularity, and apparently larger and comparatively fewer in number, as well as having the layers in some parts (from successive generations) of nearly half an inch in thickness, I thought it might be specifically distinct. I have, however, since then obtained a recent specimen covering a dead shell of *Natica catena*, on which the papillæ are not in rows, but irregular, like those upon the Crag fossil. Its correct specific determination must be left for future observers.

SEARLES V. WOOD.