similar halting-places. Thus, because blown sand erodes, am I to apply this agent in all cases where there is nothing in the nature of the cases directly to contradict me; or because a pebble on a sheet of rock may most probably have been thrown there by a lad, am I to attribute a big boulder on the same to the games of heroic youths in pre-Homeric ages? I may know that the Aletsch Glacier maintains the Märjelen See, and yet doubt the existence of a vast ice-barred lake in Northern Europe. Each case, as it seems to me, must be separately judged, having regard to all the surrounding circumstances. From this position, I have never consciously receded. I admit some tarns, I admit, though with greater hesitation (for reasons which I have stated), some 'lakelets,' to be the work, wholly or in great part, of ice. I cannot believe that ice has been more than a very secondary agent in forming the great Alpine lakes.

I still venture to think that Mr. Miller's reasoning (p. 453) does not remove the difficulty which I have brought forward as to the forms of the Alpine valleys above the great lakes. I have tried to show that there the glacier is as *nearly as possible powerless* as an erosive agent, or at any rate that it has only superficially modified forms, which we agree in associating with the action of running water. The glacier has all along been "indentured" in a groove, but it has been a thoroughly idle apprentice, till some cause, no more permanent than the master's stick, has quickened it into intense but brief energy. Como, Lugano, Brienz, the König See, and many others, are vale-confined glaciers: so are the greater parts of many other lakes. But with regard to these difficulties, I must content myself by referring to what I have already written.

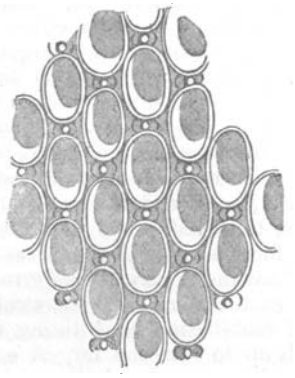
One more point; for I do not attempt to criticize Mr. Miller's special Scotch case, as I have not examined the district. The Alps cannot be expected to give much indication of the evidence of profile which Mr. Miller demands. Plains of marine denudation cannot, so far as I know, be recognized there. I am not aware that the sea has flowed among their summits since a period prior at least to the last great movement. Mountain contours, in the regions of most lakes that I have mentioned, are so irregular that we cannot hope to recognize clearly these curvatures in them, any more than in their disturbed strata. It is a point, however, which I have not overlooked in my investigations, and may say that, while I have found nothing in this respect opposed to my theory, I have observed a few things making for it slightly, but so slightly that I preferred not to bring them forward.

T. G. Bonney.

CARBONIFEROUS AND POST-TERTIARY POLYZOA.

Sir,—In the Geological Magazine for October, 1873 (Vol. X. p. 433), I proposed the name *Carinella* for a new genus of Carboniferous Polyzoa. I find that this term was pre-occupied, having been used by the late Dr. Johnston for a genus of recent Nemertidian Annelids (see McIntosh, Annals Nat. Hist. 1874, vol. xiv. p. 154), and I am therefore desirous of proposing in its place that of *Goniocladia*. I described one species (*G. cellulifera*), the only one at present known.

Mr. Macconochie obtained, some short time since, numerous specimens of a *Membranipora* from the Post-Tertiary beds (Carse Series) of the River Forth above Stirling. An examination showed that it was closely related to *M. Lacroixii*, but not quite identical. Examples were forwarded to Prof. Busk, F.R.S., who considers it a new species, and has done me the honour to name it after me. The following is his description:—*Membranipora Etheridgii*, n. sp.—



"Zoœcia disposed in regular quincuncial order. Apertures entire, oval or oblong. Border thin, finely granular, unarmed. Each aperture surmounted by a blunt tubercle. At first sight resembles *M. Lacroixii*, but differs in the perfectly regular disposition of the zoœcia and the presence of the single tubercle above each aperture. This tubercle does not appear ever to present the appearance of an opening. The growth forms lace-like expansions on the surface of shells." *Loc. and Horizon*, Goodie Water, near its junction with the Forth, etc.; River Forth near Mid Frew, and other localities in the neighbourhood of Kippen, Perthshire, in Carse shelly clays of the Raised Beach series.

R. Etheridge, Jun.

Edinburgh, *Oct.* 11, 1876.

THE "SARSEN STONES."

Sir,—With reference to the fact of the Sarsden or Sarsen Stones of Berkshire being perforated here and there with numerous vertical root-marks, as mentioned in No. 138 of Geol. Mag., December, 1875, p. 589, permit me to add that I have seen other such specimens since that date, and especially near Marlborough, and at Avebury in Wiltshire. Among the "Grey Wethers" on the Chalk Down, near the former place, I lately saw some good examples; and on a visit to Avebury, I particularly noticed that one of the enormous upright Sarsens, standing among the ricks of the farms, abounds with these once perpendicular rootlet-holes, together with numerous horizontal casts of stems and other plants-remains.

T. Rupert Jones.

Yorktown, *Sept.* 20, 1876.

FORMATION OF ROCK-BASINS.

Sir,—In respect to the challenge thrown down to me in your last Number by my friend Mr. Hugh Miller, I should have been very well contented to have left my defence in the hands of so able a champion as Mr. Bonney. But lest my silence should be interpreted as indicating a lack of courtesy as well as of courage, I respond to the personal appeal which is now made to me.

If Mr. Miller's article is rightly understood by me, I gather, that while prepared to admit the overwhelming probabilities in favour of the view that the formation of the great Alpine lakes is due to the