

transients, and an occasional *M. scanicus* are also found in association with *M. uncinatus* var. *orbatus* and var. *micropoma* and other characteristic graptolites of the Nilssoni zone which are not found in the zone of *M. scanicus*.

Under the conditions prevailing in the Welsh Borderland towards the close of Silurian time, any part of this succession is liable to be replaced to a greater or lesser extent by a non-graptolitic facies. Overlap also occurs.

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### THE TREDINGTON "ICHTHYOSAUR"

SIRS,—In 1913, the late Canon Bazeley recorded "bones of an *Ichthyosaurus* or other saurian" in a slab of Lias Limestone flooring the porch of Tredington Church, south of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.<sup>1</sup> Since then the same specimen has twice been described as an *Ichthyosaurus* 9 feet long.<sup>2, 3</sup> A year ago it was similarly described yet again, in *Country Life*, and the account was accompanied by a photograph of a heel-ball rubbing of the supposed saurian.<sup>4</sup> Since the illustration clearly was of no fossil reptile, one of us took the opportunity of visiting Tredington and examining the specimen. The portion figured as a 9 ft. saurian is merely a network of joints and other cracks; but, within this area, as well as outside it, are a few scattered saurian bones, doubtless those seen and recorded by Canon Bazeley. But Bazeley's report continues: "how they (the bones) came to be there I know not." Considering that Tredington lies on the Lower Lias, and that a few miles away, at Boddington, old quarries are noted by the Geological Survey,<sup>5</sup> there is no call for the remark; still less for the curious statement in the *Country Life* article: "The stone, of the Lias formation, . . . was, presumably, brought from the near-by Cotteswolds." Thus a fabric of mistakes has been built upon a few grains of fact. It is hoped that this latter may remove misunderstanding and, perhaps, save some geologist an unnecessary journey.

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<sup>1</sup> W. Bazeley, *Trans. Bristol and Gloucestershire Arch. Soc.*, vol. xxxvi, for 1913, p. 37.

<sup>2</sup> J. C. Cox, 1920, *Gloucestershire*, 3rd edition, Methuen and Co., p. 213.

<sup>3</sup> W. H. Bird (no date), *Old Gloucestershire Churches*, E. G. Burrow and Co., p. 182.

<sup>4</sup> A. E. Knight, 1943, *Country Life* for 20th August, p. 342.

<sup>5</sup> H. B. Woodward, 1893, *Lias of England and Wales*, *Mem. Geol. Surv.*, p. 147.