

CORRESPONDENCE.

NAMES FOR BRITISH ICE-SHEETS OF THE GLACIAL PERIOD.

SIR,—It has often occurred to me that the discussion of our British Glacial phenomena would be facilitated by the adoption of regional names, such as have been found so useful in this respect in North America, for the different portions of the confluent ice-sheets by which our Islands were partly surrounded and covered at the period of maximum glaciation. I have especially felt the want of such names in describing the supposed condition of the basins of the North Sea and of the Irish Sea in Glacial times. The term 'Scandinavian Ice-sheet' often applied to the North Sea ice-field appears to me to be misleading, since it seems to imply that the basin was occupied solely by the outflow of glaciers from Scandinavia, whereas it is far more probable that it was maintained and augmented principally by the snowfall upon its own surface. The term 'Irish Sea Ice,' sometimes used to denote the ice-sheet filling that sea-basin, is likewise objectionable, as I found in a recent discussion where it was understood to imply the marine ice of a frozen sea.

After due consideration and discussion with colleagues interested in the subject, I am inclined to think that the term 'East British Ice-sheet' will be found suitable for the mass which occupied the bed of the North Sea off our eastern coasts, and spread thence, in places, inland. This will then find its complement in the term 'West British Ice-sheet' for the land-ice which filled the basin of the Irish Sea, and encroached upon our north-western lowlands.

We already speak of the 'Pennine Ice' for the great confluent glaciers which covered the greater part of the Pennine region, and of the 'Lake District Ice' for the masses of that region, and these terms need no revision.

Then, for the ice which overspread the greater part of Scotland to the exclusion of the 'East British' and 'West British' sheets, we might apply the general term 'Caledonian,' with such local subdivision as may be hereafter found convenient. And, similarly, the 'Hibernian' (or 'Ivernian') would be that which covered Central Ireland, and the 'Cambrian' that which shielded the greater part of Wales.

More restricted local terms might still be introduced to distinguish well-defined portions of these sheets, and the lobes into which they probably split towards their termination.

I shall be glad to learn whether the terms above suggested are likely to be approved of by glacialists who hold the 'land-ice theory' in regard to our drifts.

G. W. LAMPLUGH.

TONBRIDGE.

January 20, 1901.