

### Dr. C. I. Forsyth Major.

Dr. Charles I. Forsyth Major, F.R.S., whose death occurred on 25th March, at the age of 79, was the author of upwards of eighty memoirs published by the scientific societies of England, France, Italy, Germany, and Switzerland, on the later fossil Mammalia, their systematic morphology and geographical distribution. His work covered a wide range and included the exploration of the Tertiary, Post-Tertiary, and Recent mammals of Italy, Corsica, and Sardinia, the Miocene vertebrates of Samos, etc., and the Tertiary and Recent vertebrates of Madagascar. He discovered the first skeleton of the extinct bird *Aepyornis*, an extinct *Hippopotamus*, a giant lemur, *Megaladapis*, and a new type of ape, *Nesopithecus*, besides numerous other species. He amassed very considerable collections which were mostly deposited in the British Museum, where he was at one time temporarily employed. In his later years he spent much of his time in Corsica where he continued to pursue his palæontological studies. It is feared that much of his later work, such as that on the geological position of *Samotherium* and on the living Okapi will never be published.

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### Count F. de Montessus de Ballore.

BORN 1851.

DIED 1923.

All students of the geological aspects of earthquakes are acquainted with the "Géographie Séismologique", a great work containing records of 160,000 earthquakes, and bringing out the principal facts regarding their distribution in space. A second general work "La Science Séismologique" appeared in 1907. In the same year the author was appointed director of the earthquake-service in Chile, which he conducted with great success. M. de Montessus de Ballore was undoubtedly in the first rank of the not very numerous scientific students of seismology, a subject whose development on modern lines owes much to his work.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE ISLAY SUCCESSION.

SIR,—In *Proc. Geol. Soc. London*, 28th April, 1923, p. 77, Mr. George Barrow states that it is possible in discussions of Islay geology to start "from the base of the Quartzite (the Central Highland Quartzite) which occurs along nearly the whole of the south-eastern side of Islay, a little inland. Mr. Wilkinson gives the evidence that this is the base in great detail, the lowest part of the rock being often black, and at times containing slabs of underlying material (now a graphitic phyllite) fully a foot long".

Perhaps I may recapitulate in outline my reasons for disagreeing

with Mr. Wilkinson in this particular (*Q.J.G.S.*, vol. lxxii, pp. 152–5, and pl. xii).

In East Islay, for  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles out of a possible 13, Mr. Wilkinson has mapped a band of slates separating the conglomeratic beds mentioned above from the main quartzite lying north-west of them. I have little doubt that fuller exposures would show this band of slates to be really continuous in Islay. At any rate, following in Mr. Wilkinson's footsteps, I have found it everywhere in a similar position in Jura, where its above-sea outcrop totals another 20 miles measured along the strike. The slates of this band I have called the Jura Slates. I agree with Mr. Wilkinson that appearances on the south coast of Islay strongly suggest that the conglomeratic group lying south-east of the Jura Slates has derived material through erosion of the latter. But I disagree with him when he declares that the Jura Slates are exposed along the crest of an anticlinal fold, and that the conglomeratic quartzite south-east of them is merely an outlier of the main quartzite farther north-west. My reasons are as follows:—

(1) There is no field-appearance suggesting the postulated fold.

(2) The Jura Slates along almost all their outcrop are assymetrical, with a grey division against the main quartzite and a black division against the conglomeratic group. (I can speak with certainty in regard to this feature in the southernmost exposure in Islay, and in all except one occurrence in Jura. At the extreme north of Jura, the group is wholly black. Unfortunately, I have no detailed notes regarding exposures in Islay, except the southern one figured *op. cit.*, p. 154.)

(3) The conglomeratic group is everywhere distinguishable on the ground of texture, from the main quartzite occurring on the other side of the Jura Slate outcrop.

It will be seen, therefore, that the evidence which points to the conglomeratic group being later than the Jura Slates, places them at the original top, rather than the original base, of the Islay Quartzite taken as a whole.

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#### PETROGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE.

SIR,—I am led to stir up these muddy waters once more by reading Mr. Dixey's interesting account of the norite of Sierra Leone (*Q.J.G.S.*, 1922, pt. 4). Some years ago (1918) I gave a brief account of this norite in the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* (and, by the way, I wish Mr. Dixey had not said that I "translated Gürich's work", for the few observations that I described were my own), and I mentioned three facies, namely a pegmatitic norite, a medium-grained norite, and an aplitic norite or micronorite. Mr. Dixey recognizes the same three facies, but the rock that I called micronorite he calls beerbachite, and he gives the name norite-aplite to another rock which consists chiefly (sometimes almost wholly) of quartz, orthoclase, and acid plagioclase, with