

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COTTESWOLD NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.

SIR,—Over the familiar initials H. B. W. appears a notice of the above Club, vol. ix. pt. iv. (*GEOL. MAG.* Dec. III. Vol. VII. p. 88). A large part of this notice is, I am sorry to see, occupied in a criticism upon my system of nomenclature.

Mr. H. B. W. is, really, not complimentary to the members of the Cotteswold Field Club. He leads us to imagine that they are unable to cope with anything which has not been thoroughly approved of, and digested by, the text-books, not as if one were writing for scientific men, but as if one were addressing the raw students of a newly-formed Natural History class.

Another idea which H. B. W. puts forth is, that there shall be really two systems of nomenclature—one for the use of specialists among themselves, and the other for the consumption of stratigraphists and general readers. Already there are complaints that one system is enough to remember; now we are to have two, to be varied according to the supposed capacities of the audience! What would be the result? The stratigraphist would soon be unable to comprehend the palæontologist, instead of being gradually educated up to him, as at present.

I can, however, throw out one suggestion whereby all authors can help the general reader, namely, by differentiating, in lists of fossils, Brachiopoda, Cephalopoda, etc., by the use of those terms as headings; or, sometimes, by indicating smaller divisions, such as Ammonites, Goniatites, Nautili. The general reader would know then, at any rate within some limits, to what an unknown generic name applied. This suggestion, however, is quite as necessary to those using old, as to those employing new, generic names.

S. S. BUCKMAN.

OBITUARY.

JOHN EDWARD TENISON WOODS.

ONE of the pioneers of Australian geology has passed away by the death of the late Vicar-general of Adelaide. Mr. Woods first settled in Australia about 1857, and in that year issued his paper, "Observations on some Metamorphic Rocks in S. Australia." This was followed by others, "Geological Observations on S. Australia," in 1862, and by his "Tertiary Fossils of South Australia," in 1865. His greatest work, "A History of the Discovery and Exploration of Australia," was published in 1862, and besides being a most useful compilation, it contained some valuable additions to Australian palæontology. In 1867, in a paper on "The Glacial Deposits in Australia," he made the first attempt to prove the past existence of an Ice age in that Continent. In later years Mr. Woods rather abandoned geology, but he did much good work on the recent mollusca of Australia and Tasmania. He was also interested and wrote occasionally on meteorology. In 1880 he served as President of the Linnean Society of New South Wales. He died at Sydney on the 9th of October, 1889.