Wern-y-scadog, Llanfyllin, was described as *P. tumida*, and a *Thamniscus* from the volcanic ash of Middleton Hill, near Welshpool, probably of Bala age, as *T. antiquus*, both from a collection sent by Mr. J. B. Morgan, of Welshpool, to Prof. Lapworth for identification. A list of the species of *Phyllopora*, hitherto described from Lower-Silurian beds, and of both Upper and Lower Silurian forms of *Thamniscus*, was added, and the relations of the various known species to those described in the present paper were discussed at some length.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FULLERS EARTH AND WATER SUPPLY.

Sir,—At Woburn, Beds, the Fullers earth is obtained by digging cylindrical holes or wells, as they are there called, in the Greensand, until this marl is reached. Sometimes there is water, oftener not; but when there is, it is the finest and sweetest in the country, very clear, never failing, but not very abundant. So good is it that those domestic wells deriving their supply from some other source than the Fullers earth, are treated to it, from time to time artificially, by having masses of it placed in them. The cleansing properties of this 'earth,' as applied to blankets, etc., is universally recognized, but I never heard before of its being used for cleansing water supply. I understand, however, that such is the case, the Woburn earth having been sent into a neighbouring county for that purpose; though I have not as yet been able to obtain corroboration of this, nor to find out whether it is put into filter beds with the other material, or in what way it is made use of. A. G. Cameron.

H.M. Geological Survey, Bedford.

THE PHENOMENA OF STRAINS, Etc., OBSERVABLE IN OBSIDIAN.

Sir,—In the August number of the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, Mr. F. Rutley describes the phenomena of strain in the glass of some obsidians around embedded crystals. I enclose a photograph of similar depolarizing effects in a slide, cut from a specimen of Mexican obsidian given to me some years ago by my friend Mr. J. Backhouse of York, among a number of pieces several of which showed the phenomenon in question.

It is rather remarkable that in the same slide some of the crystals exhibit the luminous brushes as described and figured in the article cited, while others apparently have no effect upon the state of the glass. This is the case round both the crystals of felspar of various kinds, and the black specks, mostly rounded, which I suppose are magnetite.

I determined that the glass is compressed by observing the effects produced by the interposition of different parts of a strip of glass between the slide and the objective when bent by the pressure of the fingers in a horizontal plane. By this means it was possible to so