

Register, Oct. 12/11

Society's Transactions, Mr. Howchin criticises our paper in a regrettable way, and in the following volume he (in the capacity of the society's editor) refers to extracts from our unpublished manuscript. Moreover, he publishes a list of the literature dealing with previous observations, such as we had included in our rejected paper." These paragraphs are reproduced (translated) from the first printer's copy of my paper, bearing the blue pencil marks of the editor himself. The society asked me to omit these two paragraphs, if possible, and I immediately fell in with their wish.

I have already replied to Mr. Howchin in reference to the taking of my D.Ph. degree. In order to prove that the evidence described as glacial in the conglomerate of the Sturt Valley is cataclastic, it is essential to study the transition rocks at its borders more than the actual heart of the formation. For a concise definition of a "flcater" I must refer Dr. Noetling to any up-to-date textbook of geology; he will then see how it applies to the one in the Blackwood section. As regards the "severe criticism" of my paper on the Tasmanian skull by "Geheimrat Professor Dr. von Lushan," I might mention that nobody conversant with the facts of the case takes this seriously at all. "Audiatur et altera pars." Dr. Noetling might have told the public that Professor Klaatsch immediately after re-established the scientific value of my paper! Or was it because Dr. Noetling has chosen to make this genial scientist also a bitter antagonist? The jealous attacks of the von Lushan school on the Klaatsch school have become proverbial in Germany. Having tried in vain to belittle Professor Klaatsch's works, Professor von Lushan attempted to defeat the latter's first and senior student, with little better result. If Professor von Lushan has referred to the work of a pupil of Professor Klaatsch's as an "entgleisung" (Dr. Noetling's translation of which has been modelled for the occasion), Professor Klaatsch has openly referred to the fossilized methods of craniological measurements as "pseudo-exact and in a state of bankruptcy." Anatomists or note, such as Professor Merkel, have recognised my paper. Professor von Lushan is not an anatomist. In answer to Dr. Noetling's "simple, plain question," my reply is that, had I chosen to remain in Germany for good, I might have considered it necessary to sit for the "Staats examen," but I had greater objects in view—viz., the M.D. Being an Australian and a British-born subject, moreover, I had no desire to remain in Germany longer than my studies necessitated, even though my late principal, the famous anatomist, Professor Hesse, was anxious for me to remain with him. The Faculty of Medicine having recognised my science course at the Adelaide University as equivalent of the preliminary science course for the German medical degree, I was granted the "Physicum" or examination in the necessary science subjects. I was thus enabled to sit for my M.D. after six semesters (half-yearly courses) of true medical study, which is the regulation time of Prussian universities. I do not see, however, that this affects the glacial controversy. Should Dr. Noetling (who is not a medical man) require further particulars, I must refer him to the secretary of the Medical Board, who have registered me as a legally qualified practitioner—or, if he wishes, to the South Australian Government, who appointed me a Government medical officer, or to the Commonwealth Government, who appointed me the chief medical inspector in the Northern Territory.

In his second letter Dr. Noetling quotes the opinions of various German geologists. These Mr. Howchin would not accept, because they are from "geologists who live in the opposite hemisphere, and know nothing of Australian geology." Consequently I will not waste time and your valuable space by replying. In spite of it being "transparent" to Dr. Noetling why Professor Frech does not side with the "glacialists," I might point out that when I first met the professor he informed me that he attended the International Geological Congress at Mexico, when Professor David brought up the glacial theory. Professor Frech, therefore, knew all about the formation before I saw him. He told me that Professor David was asked if a glaciated pavement was anywhere to be found underlying the conglomerate, and when that question was negatived he and other geologists present received the theory sceptically. A leading Australian geologist who attended the British Association meeting at Dublin has written to me as follows:—"I hardly think it would be wise for me to communicate to the South Australian papers anything I heard in Dublin about the South Australian glacials, as these views were not expressed in a public meeting, but merely of the nature of what I call 'campfire talks.'

The truth will out eventually." It would therefore seem that the question is far from decided. Before Dr. Noetling goes any further in the matter, and before he writes more of his "comprehensive papers," I would advise him to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the contents and facts of our papers. There is a vast difference in meaning between the words "evidence" and "origin." I anticipate that much light will be thrown upon this subject when Dr. Maclaren's paper on Archaean conglomerates has appeared in print. The reasoning of the latter portion of Dr. Noetling's letter I cannot follow. I beg you, Sir, to accept this letter, which will be my first and last contribution to the "Noetling series."

I am, Sir, &c., H. BASEDOW.
Kent Town, October 9.

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THE KING.

AUSTRALIAN EXPLORERS.

MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

LONDON, October 11.

His Majesty the King to-day conveyed to Mr. Ernest Joyce, who is to accompany Dr. Douglas Mawson's antarctic expedition as zoologist, and will set out to-morrow to join the party in Australia, his best wishes for the explorers. The King expressed the hope that they would enjoy success, maintain good health, and achieve a safe return. King George said he took the keenest interest in the expedition, and would look forward to hearing of worthy results of the work.

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MAWSON EXPEDITION.

NO ASSISTANCE FROM QUEENSLAND.

BRISBANE, October 12.

A deputation, which included Archbishop Donaldson, Sir Arthur Morgan, and representatives of the Royal Geographical Society, the National Association, the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, the Queensland University, and both Houses of Parliament, waited on the Premier (Mr. Denham) to ask for financial assistance from the Government toward the Mawson expedition. It was pointed out that with the exception of Western Australia and Queensland all the States had signified their intention of lending liberal financial support. The Premier, in reply, said scarcely a week passed but that he saw some way in which money might be spent in the public interest and public welfare, but inclination and public spirit were bounded by limitations. He could not for one moment entertain the idea of contributing to this fund, because he did not regard the finances of the State as able to bear any extra strain. He had told Dr. Mawson so soon as he arrived in Brisbane, and he told every one there, that he could not entertain the project.

RADIUM.

From Dr. Mawson:—"In The Register of October 12 is the prospectus of a radium company in process of formation, to search for radium ore in a square mile of country adjacent to the well-known Radium Hill lode, near Olary. It devolves upon me to make some remarks in explanation of the statements appended to the names of myself and colleagues. My remark, 'In quantity and quality the radio-active ore at Olary appears to be the best yet discovered in Australia,' was made in the year 1906, and is now no longer true. Since then much better ore has been got in several other localities in Australia. The various references to Professors Rennie and David, Dr. Cook, and Mr. S. Radcliff were all made in regard to the Radium Hill Company's lodes, which are very localized. So far as I am aware, no radio-active ore on a commercial scale is yet known in the Olary district outside the ground held by the original Radium Hill Company."