

Since then Mr. Thomson has obtained the loan of Ure's original specimen from the collection of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, has had it cut and polished; and has thus proved that *Cyclophyllum fungites* of Duncan and Thomson is Ure's *Fungites*; the point for which I have all along contended.

JOHN YOUNG.

HUNTERIAN MUSEUM, COLLEGE, GLASGOW,
April 8th, 1868.

FISH-REMAINS IN THE LOWER DEVONIAN OF SOUTH DEVON AND CORNWALL.

SIR,—Mr. Salter, in going over my late son's collection, has made a somewhat important discovery, which he has requested me to communicate to you.

There has been so much doubt thrown upon the specimens identified with fish remains in Devonian rocks, whilst they are known to swarm in the Old Red sandstone, that every communication on the subject is of some importance.

It will be remembered that many supposed remains of fish from the slate rocks of Polperro, in Cornwall, were identified by Professor M'Coy with the Sponges. On this new form of sponge he bestowed the name *Steganodictyum*, describing it as a reticular layer overlaid by a striated coat. Some specimens of this are in my late son's collection. But with them is a large and well preserved plate, six inches long, which evidently belongs to a species of *Pteraspis*.

Of course, only the usual nuchal plate is preserved; but the markings on this are so perfect as to render it almost impossible to mistake the nature of the fossil. The closely-set sinuous grooves, occasionally interrupted, and disposed in concentric fashion over the whole plate, are rather closer together than in the ordinary species of *Pteraspis* from the Cornstone rocks. The species is undoubtedly new to Britain, although Mr. Salter has not, at present, the means of comparing it with the one described by Roemer from the Lower Devonian of Germany.

The point of interest is, of course, the finding a Lower Old Red Sandstone fish in Lower Devonian rocks in our own country. It also throws doubts upon the relationship of *Steganodictyum* to the sponges, inasmuch as this fossil shows cells like those of that genus immediately beneath the striated coat, whilst specimens of *Steganodictyum*, also in this collection, show the internal layer of the fish-plate with the cellular layer above it.

I only wish to draw attention to this fact. Mr. Salter will probably send you a fuller description than is contained in these few notes; but he thinks that no time should be lost in making the fact known.

E. WYATT-EDGELL.

2, LANSDOWNE PLACE, LADBROKE SQUARE, W.,
11th April, 1868.

Having—together with Mr. E. Ray Lankester—examined the late Mr. Wyatt-Edgell's specimens of the so-called *Steganodictyum Cornubicum* and also the cephalic plate of *Pteraspis*, from Mudstone Bay, South Devon, and compared them with Roemer's type-specimens of

Pteraspis (*Archæoteuthis*) *Dunensis* from the Lower Devonian of the Eifel (preserved in the British Museum), and with M'Coy's figures of the Cornish specimen¹—we fully concur in Mr. Salter's identification of M'Coy's genus *Steganodictyum* with the *Pteraspidian* plate in Mr. Wyatt-Edgell's collection, and consider that they must both be referred to the genus *Scaphaspis* (see Brit. As. Rept. 1864, and GEOL. MAG., 1864, Vol. I. p. 292); and, further, that the Cornish specimens cannot at present be separated specifically from Roemer's *Pteraspis* (*Archæoteuthis*) *Dunensis*. As M'Coy's specific name, *Cornubicum*, however, bears date 1851 (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 2nd ser., vol. viii.), and Roemer's name, *Dunensis*, was given in 1855 (Palæontographica, Dunker and von Meyer, vol. iv. p. 72, tab. xiii.), the name to be adopted should be *Scaphaspis Cornubicus*. The late Dr. S. P. Woodward called attention to the ichthyic character of Roemer's supposed *Archæoteuthis* in his Manual of Mollusca, 1856, p. 417.

HENRY WOODWARD.

P.S. Since the above was written, Professor Huxley informs me that Mr. Leonard Lyell brought to him for examination (some six weeks ago) specimens of the so-called *Steganodictyum* of McCoy, from South Devon and Cornwall, from the cabinet of W. Pengelly, Esq., F.R.S., of Torquay, which he at once pronounced to be true cephalic plates of *Pteraspis*.

H. W.

¹ See Sedgwick and M'Coy's Palæozoic Fossils (Tab. 2A. fig. 1, 3). It is highly probable that *Steganodictyum Carteri*, M'Coy, from the Devonian of Cornwall (Tab. 2A. fig. 4), is founded on a fragment of a cephalic plate of *Cephalaspis*.

ÆROLITIC SHOWER.—POGGENDORFF'S ANNALEN (Band cxxxiii.) contains a notice of a recent great fall of Meteoric Stones, of which the following is a summary:—On the 30th of January of the present year, a number of Stone Ærolites fell at Sielce and Gostkow, near Pultusk, in Poland. Many details of the fall are yet wanting; but, according to the accounts which have already reached us, the phenomena accompanying it appear to have been of the usual kind. A large fire-ball was seen about seven o'clock in the evening, passing rapidly from the North-West to the South-East, with a constantly increasing brilliancy, and at last exploded with a great noise, scattering a shower of stones in the immediate vicinity of the above places. This fire-ball was visible in Silesia, Prussia, Posen, etc. Professor Eberhard Fugger, of Stockerau, Austria, under the date of February 7th, gives the following account of the meteor as seen at that place. It may be premised that the distance between Stockerau and Pultusk is nearly 400 miles as the crow flies. "On the 30th of January of this year, a brilliant meteor was observed here. About ten minutes before seven in the evening, a blue flaming ball showed itself, which appeared to come from the moon; it travelled towards the South-East, becoming during its progress larger and more brilliant, a blue light at the same time spreading itself over the neighbourhood. The ball gradually disappeared behind the mountains on the right bank of the Danube, decreasing in size, and, after it had completely disappeared, a sudden crack like thunder was heard. When the meteor was at its greatest size, it did not appear to be higher from the ground than double the height of a church-tower. This phenomenon lasted for fifteen seconds, and was visible at Brünn and other places. A similar meteor was observed in Stockerau on the 21st of January of this year, at 7.40 p.m." A stone as large as a child's head is reported to have fallen at Baden-Baden, at eleven o'clock on the same evening as those near Pultusk, some fragments of which are said to have been received by the Dantzic astronomer, Kayser. Several of the Sielce and Gostkow stones, ranging from a few ounces to 7lbs. in weight, have been forwarded to the British Museum. The interior of these stones is of a bluish-grey colour, somewhat similar to those which fell at L'Aigle, in France, in April, 1803; and the crust is of a dull black and brown colour, and of varying thickness.

T. D.