

as indicative of concurrence with Dr. Parsons' views, and I am anxious to dispel that impression.

Those who are interested in the matter, and many geologists are likely to be so in view of the impending meetings of both the International Geological Congress and the British Association in South Africa this year, would do well to consult *Min. Proc. Geol. Soc. S. Africa*, 1929, pp. xliii-vi (proof subject to alteration just issued).

Dr. Parsons' views concerning the existence of thrusts at the coast may be right or wrong, but to one no better acquainted with the geology of that part of Kenya than I am they are unconvincing; and (although I am not one of those who accept the tension theory) I do not think they bear of necessity on the origin of Rift Valleys; for it is not proved that the forces that gave rise to these structures originated outside (to the east of in this case) the continent.

My own attitude towards the interpretation of Rift Valleys will be explained at a meeting of the International Geological Congress in Johannesburg, where I am to have the privilege of opening a discussion on that subject. Meanwhile, however, I should like to say that although the movements that gave rise to the Rift Valleys may be but a repetition of similar activities that have manifested themselves more than once in the geological history of enormous areas of Africa, there can be no doubt that Maufe is right when he suggests that the folding of the Karagwe-Ankolean beds of Uganda and Tanganyika Territory occurred in a period long prior to that in which the present Rifts appeared. Not only so, but the folding of the Karroo, which is later than that of the Karagwe-Ankolean, also belongs to geological antiquity; for the Karroo basins, no less than older structures, were surface-levelled by a vast peneplain which had reached an advanced stage of maturity before the occurrence of certain warpings and the Rift Valleys associated with them.

E. J. WAYLAND.

15 WESTCLIFF TERRACE MANSIONS,
RAMSGATE.
19th May, 1929.

THE CHERTS OF NORTH FLINTSHIRE.

SIR,—Dr. G. M. Lees has given us an interesting paper on "The Chert Beds of Palestine",¹ but his summary in that paper of the massive chert-formation of North Flintshire contains inaccuracies which cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged.

(1) There is no massive chert at or near Colomendy. That locality is far removed from the chert-outcrop.

(2) The development of the chert is widespread and not "local", and the numerous exposures ranging from 20 or 30 up to nearly 100 feet in thickness are certainly not "poor".

¹ *Proc. Geol. Assoc.*, xxxix, 1928, pp. 445-62.

(3) Dr. Lees states that intraformational folding and brecciation of the chert have resulted from physical changes subsequent to deposition, leading to increase of volume.

The only intraformational folding consists of small local synclines and quâ-quâ-versal folds which have been adequately described and explained by Strahan, as follows: "The lower beds of the chert frequently *in this district* dip at high angles in abnormal directions, although their boundary preserves its normal strike. A good instance occurs by the side of the road to Halkin Hall, and a quarry on the south side of the road provides the explanation, for the strata dip here from all sides at steep angles towards the centre of the pit in such a way as to show that the rock beneath has given way, probably owing to the collapsing of a cave in the limestone."¹

Dr. Lees quotes only the first sentence of the foregoing description, and he omits the three words I have italicized, which are of obvious significance. There is no evidence of a subsequent change of volume such as he postulates, and his theory of an "internal expansive force" is needless, as well as incompetent, to explain the intraformational folding or the brecciation of these cherts.

(4) The chert is not "completely devoid of any organic structures". Thin sections show sponge spicules and other organic structures. Crinoids and corals, though very scarce, are sometimes seen.

I regret the necessity of having to point out these inaccuracies in Dr. Lees' summary of the Flintshire Cherts.

H. C. SARGENT.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF FOLD-SYSTEMS.

SIR,—In response to your suggestion for further views on general names for fold mountain systems, I beg to support Professor Boswell's suggestion for the adoption of -id. I recommend its application to Altaids, which I used in the *Geographical Journal*, June, 1915, for example p. 501.

J. W. GREGORY.

THE UNIVERSITY, GLASGOW.
10th May, 1929.

[The pronunciation of such a form as Africids also needs consideration. The variations of the letter *c* in English are a constant source of trouble in words of this kind. Is it to be *Afrikids* or *Afrisids*?—ED.]

¹ "The Geology of the Neighbourhood of Flint, Mold, and Ruthin," *Mem. Geol. Surv.*, 1890, p. 50.