

transients, and an occasional *M. scanicus* are also found in association with *M. uncinatus* var. *orbatus* and var. *micropoma* and other characteristic graptolites of the Nilssoni zone which are not found in the zone of *M. scanicus*.

Under the conditions prevailing in the Welsh Borderland towards the close of Silurian time, any part of this succession is liable to be replaced to a greater or lesser extent by a non-graptolitic facies. Overlap also occurs.

GERTRUDE L. ELLES.

SEDGWICK MUSEUM,
CAMBRIDGE.

6th November, 1944.

THE TREDINGTON "ICHTHYOSAUR"

SIRS,—In 1913, the late Canon Bazeley recorded "bones of an *Ichthyosaurus* or other saurian" in a slab of Lias Limestone flooring the porch of Tredington Church, south of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.¹ Since then the same specimen has twice been described as an *Ichthyosaurus* 9 feet long.^{2, 3} A year ago it was similarly described yet again, in *Country Life*, and the account was accompanied by a photograph of a heel-ball rubbing of the supposed saurian.⁴ Since the illustration clearly was of no fossil reptile, one of us took the opportunity of visiting Tredington and examining the specimen. The portion figured as a 9 ft. saurian is merely a network of joints and other cracks; but, within this area, as well as outside it, are a few scattered saurian bones, doubtless those seen and recorded by Canon Bazeley. But Bazeley's report continues: "how they (the bones) came to be there I know not." Considering that Tredington lies on the Lower Lias, and that a few miles away, at Boddington, old quarries are noted by the Geological Survey,⁵ there is no call for the remark; still less for the curious statement in the *Country Life* article: "The stone, of the Lias formation, . . . was, presumably, brought from the near-by Cotteswolds." Thus a fabric of mistakes has been built upon a few grains of fact. It is hoped that this latter may remove misunderstanding and, perhaps, save some geologist an unnecessary journey.

LIAS LEA,
CHARMOUTH.

W. D. LANG.

THE UNIVERSITY,
BRISTOL.

STANLEY SMITH.

10th October, 1944.

¹ W. Bazeley, *Trans. Bristol and Gloucestershire Arch. Soc.*, vol. xxxvi, for 1913, p. 37.

² J. C. Cox, 1920, *Gloucestershire*, 3rd edition, Methuen and Co., p. 213.

³ W. H. Bird (no date), *Old Gloucestershire Churches*, E. G. Burrow and Co., p. 182.

⁴ A. E. Knight, 1943, *Country Life* for 20th August, p. 342.

⁵ H. B. Woodward, 1893, *Lias of England and Wales*, *Mem. Geol. Surv.*, p. 147.