

## CORRESPONDENCE

### ON ALGAL LIMESTONES AT THE BASE OF THE BURDIEHOUSE LIMESTONE, NEAR BURDIEHOUSE, MIDLOTHIAN

SIR,—Although the occurrence of algal limestones at the base of the Burdiehouse Limestone at several localities in the Central Coalfield of Scotland has been known for many years, curiously enough their presence has never been observed in the type district near Edinburgh. We therefore desire to record that this gap in our knowledge has now been filled. During a recent visit to the mine at Straiton, near Burdiehouse, we found large blocks of algal limestone on the waste-heap, and on inquiry we learned that they had lately been removed from the floor of the Burdiehouse bed during road repairs in the underground workings.

The algal limestones here are in two layers, each being slightly less than one foot in thickness, and separated by a conspicuous sun-cracked bedding plane. The lower bed which rests on a yellowish sandstone, also exhibiting numerous sun-cracks, is made up of small round algal bodies resembling oolite grains, and associated with them are large sphaeroid masses showing the characteristic structure of Spongiostromids. The upper layer is a dark grey reef-like limestone displaying a similar concentric structure, and has a smooth or warty bulbous exterior, identical in appearance with that of the equivalent bed at Rosyth and other places in the coalfield. Dr. F. W. Anderson, who has kindly examined some of the specimens submitted by us, reports on them as follows:—

“ Similar algal concretions to the small oolite-like bodies are found in the Pennsylvanian of North America. They have been given the generic name of *Osagia* by Twenhofel.

“ The large spheroidal masses resemble very closely the algal genus *Otonosia* Twenhofel, though here, as in other localities in Scotland, they show some features characteristic of the genus *Callenia*, Walcott.”

The specimens are now preserved in the collections of the Geological Survey in Edinburgh.

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J. PRINGLE.

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### ON THE NORMAL FAULTING OF RIFT VALLEY STRUCTURES

STRS,—I was much interested in Dr. Dixey's letter in the May–June number of the *Geological Magazine* for 1945. If there are clear sections in the Northern Frontier Province of Kenya, showing a transitional zone between the Jurassics and the Marehan Sandstone, the latter must be of Cretaceous Age. Our expedition was a reconnaissance only, and these sections were missed. It is possible that there are two sets of scarp-forming sandstones, one above and one below the Jurassic marines, for the Wergudud Range shows all the characteristics of a fault-scarp.