

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE USE OF THE DIAMOND DRILL OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS.

The Committee on Publications :

GENTLEMEN:—While preparing the lecture on "The Diamond Drill and its Work," which I had the honor to deliver, last February, before the FRANKLIN INSTITUTE, I wished to secure some authoritative confirmation of a published statement that the "diamond drill," or its equivalent, had been used by the ancient Egyptians. I, therefore, wrote the Hon. James G. Blaine, Secretary of State, asking his kind offices in the interest of science in securing from the Consul-General of the United States at Cairo, Egypt, answers to certain questions relative to the matter. These questions were very kindly forwarded by the Department of State, to the Hon. Eugene Schuyler, Consul-General of the United States at Cairo, whose reply did not reach me in time for incorporation in my lecture; and I now take great pleasure in fulfilling my promise by enclosing a copy of it to you, as it is a complete confirmation of the statements made by me relative to the use of "diamond drills," or similar tools, by the builders of the pyramids.

Yours truly,

W. F. DURFEE.

Birdsboro, Pa., July 26, 1890.

[COPY No. 46.]

Agency and Consulate-General of the United States.

CAIRO, EGYPT, March 1, 1890.

Hon. William F. Wharton, Assistant Secretary of State :

SIR:—In reply to your despatch No. 12, dated December 7, 1889, enclosing a letter from W. F. Durfee, of Birdsboro, Pa., on the use of diamond drills by the ancient Egyptians, I have the honor to say that, after consulting very many persons, I at last hit on the one man who has invented the theory—Mr. Flanders Petrie. I enclose a copy of a statement made by him on the subject. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

EUGENE SCHUYLER.

[ENCLOSURE IN DESPATCH No. 46.]

Statement of Mr. Flanders Petrie.

(1) The specimens of work which demonstrate the use of jewel points in sawing, drilling, etc., are drawn in my book, *Pyramids and Temples of Gizeh* (both editions); and the same plate is in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute* for 1882 or '83, referred to in the chapter on "Pyramids and Temples," and in the *Journal*, but the account of mechanical methods in general is fuller in the *Journal*.