

The study of the fossil faunas of the Caribbean region is of fundamental importance for the correlation of the Tertiary deposits of both the Atlantic and Pacific basins, because of the inter-oceanic connexion across Central America which existed during a considerable part of the Tertiary period. It has long been noticed that the fossils in the Tertiary deposits of the West Indies and Central America are more nearly allied to species living in the Indo-Pacific region than to those in the Atlantic. In recent years the work of numerous American writers has considerably extended our knowledge of these resemblances, especially in the Calcareous Alge, Foraminifera, Corals, Echinoids, Mollusca, and Crustacea. It has been shown that many species or genera which are abundant in the Eocene and Oligocene deposits of the Caribbean region are now extinct in the Atlantic, but have representatives in the Pacific. At the present day the Atlantic fauna is in many respects strikingly different from that of the Indo-Pacific region, but the two faunas were not differentiated from one another in Oligocene times and were only slightly differentiated in the Miocene period.

Except in Trinidad no Lower Eocene is known in Central America and the West Indies, and Middle Eocene is known only in Panama, but Upper Eocene deposits are widely distributed and rest on folded and eroded Upper Cretaceous. The Upper Eocene, of which the type formation is the St. Bartholomew Limestone, shows close relationship with the Priabona formation of Northern Italy. Similarly, the coral fauna of the Middle Oligocene deposits bears close resemblance to that of the Rupelian of Northern Italy.

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THE WATER SUPPLY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ETC., FROM UNDERGROUND SOURCES. By W. WHITAKER, B.A., F.R.S. Mem. Geol. Survey, (His Majesty's Stationery Office). 157 pp. Price 7s. net.

THE publication of this interesting and authentic record of the underground water supplies of Cambridgeshire, Hunts, and Rutland, has been looked forward to by those interested in providing an adequate water supply to meet the conditions accentuated by the abnormal drought of last year.

The area covered by the work embraces that part of England where the least rainfall is recorded in normal years.

The recent drought, particularly in the Fens, where the domestic water supply is most difficult to obtain, has compelled the local authorities to look seriously into the question of permanent water supplies.

In publishing the work at this time the author may be assured of its appreciation by those who desire to be informed of the best means of improving and enlarging their existing supplies.

The first part of the book deals with the general Geological Formations, Water Bearing Beds, Springs, and Contamination ;

and in relation to the latter, interesting details are given of the various tests made on the flow of underground water at Fulbourn in connexion with the Cambridge water supply.

The latter part is devoted to a detailed list of well-sections and analyses of the various well waters.

In connexion with the well-sections there is a lot of information which will be extremely useful to geologists as to thickness of strata and depth to the Greensand, etc.

A complete bibliography and index add to the usefulness of an excellent work.

L. E. WILSON.

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OSMIRIDIUM IN TASMANIA. By A. M. REID. Bulletin 32, Geological Survey of Tasmania. pp. vii+126, with 10 plates (maps) and 12 full-page photographs. 1921.

OF late years there has been a considerable demand for the natural alloy osmiridium or iridosmine for the points of gold nibs for fountain pens, and prices until lately ruled very high. Tasmania is to-day the largest producer of this valuable metal. A remarkable feature is the comparative scarcity of associated platinum in the deposits, which nevertheless are derived from ultrabasic, usually serpentinized intrusions, as in the case of the normal platinum occurrences. Hitherto the output has been chiefly obtained from superficial and alluvial deposits, but the metal has been definitely located in its mother rock, which has also been worked commercially to some extent. In their unaltered condition the metalliferous rocks are mainly bronzite-peridotites, while pyroxenites and their derived serpentines are barren. The chief deposits are found in the river-gravels of the Western Division, while the best-known rock-deposits are those of Bald Hill, Mt. Stewart, and Wilson River. Much of this country is very wild and inaccessible, and there are possibilities of much future development of the industry, though at present owing to a slump in prices it is not very profitable.

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NEMORHAEDUS PHILISI, NOV. SPEC. EIN FOSSILER GORAL AUS DEM OBERPLIOCÄN DER AUVERGNE. By S. SCHAUB (Basel). *Eclogæ Geol. Helvetiæ*, vol. xvi, No. 5, January, 1922, p. 558.

IN this paper the author describes the remains of at least two individuals of a new species of *Nemorhaedus* (the Goral), a genus of antelopes related to *Capricornis* (the Serow) and to *Budorcas* (the Takin), all confined at the present day to the eastern half of Asia. The material, which includes skulls and most of the skeleton, is so good that there seems to be no reason to doubt the accuracy of the determination. The discovery of this Asiatic form in western Europe is particularly interesting because it probably represents the ancestral form of the peculiarly modified antelope *Myotragus* discovered by Miss Bate in Pleistocene cavern-deposits of the