

name to any portion of it at his discretion," etc. In the present instance, however, Professor Gregory did select the genotype, but had the conception that the arm-structure was similar to the accompanying form, *leptosoma*. Since, therefore, the genotype was selected in error, it is necessary to follow an unwritten, but nevertheless, patent rule, reforming the genus thus broken up, and instituting the only remaining form—regarded as congeneric, be it remembered, by Gregory—as the valid claimant. The Stricklandian rule quoted above should afford sufficient authority and reason for such procedure, otherwise rules of nomenclature, made with the best intent, may easily prove a stumbling-block to scientific progress, and a cause of confusion, instead of a simplifying of scientific terminology.

In the interpretation of the lateral ossicles in the two species of *Sturtzura*, it may be more convenient to regard the curved, fusiform ossicles as an intermediate series—derived from a boot-shaped ambulacral, but now perfectly distinct—and to still refer to the spine-bearing plate, as Dr. Bather suggests, as the adambulacrals. In fact, there seems a transitional tendency shown in these forms, from the typical Protasterid towards a Lapworthurid, especially as there is some indication of the ventral arm-ossicles tending to become parallel on the distal and proximal margins.

Dr. Bather's suggestion that *Sturtzura* can lapse and be resuscitated under a fresh diagnosis with *S. brisingoides* and another species is surely untenable? As the original genotype is now shown to be a form of *Protaster*, this action would be condemned by the rule adopted by many zoologists of "once a synonym always a synonym" as applying to generic terms.

The last paragraph of Dr. Bather's excellent and suggestive review needs no comment, for no one responsible for museum arrangement would seriously entertain the idea of translating into free English every scientific term on the exhibited labels.

F. CHAPMAN.

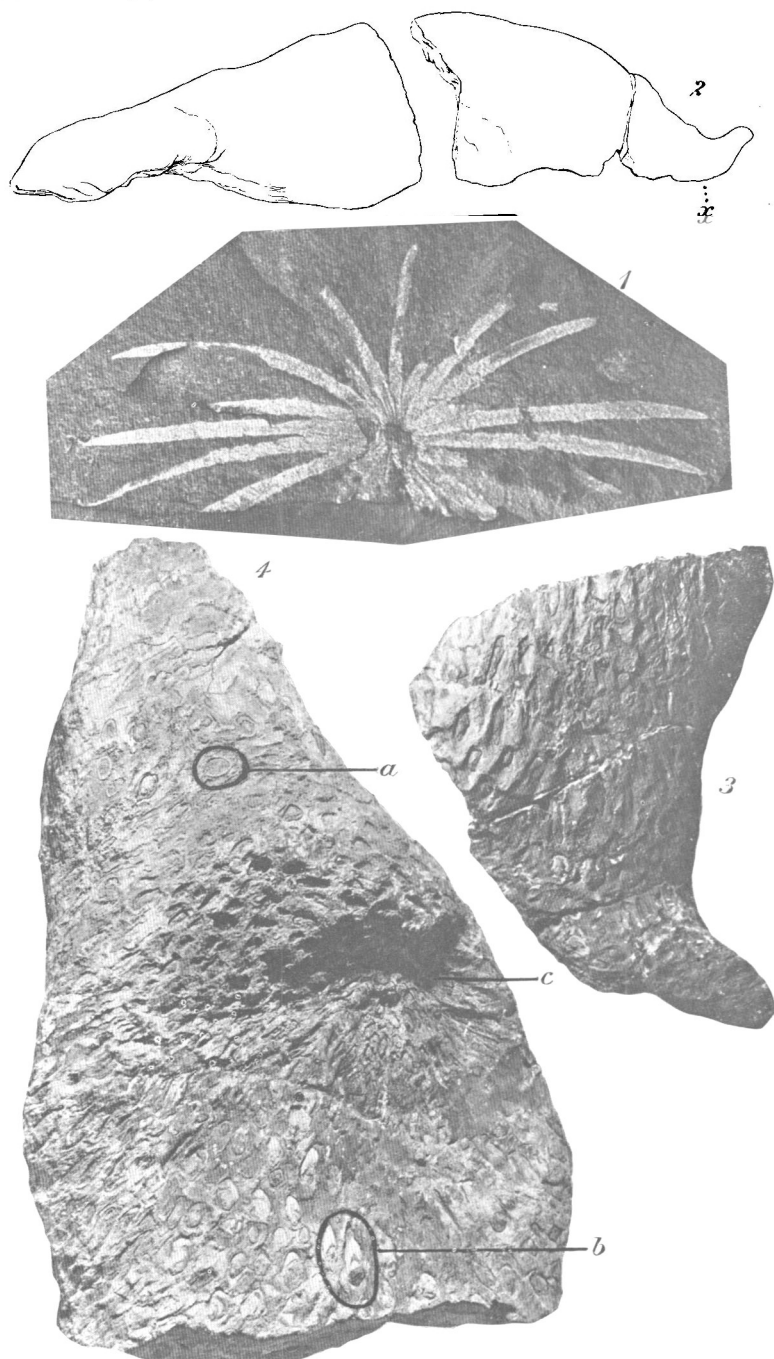
NATIONAL MUSEUM, MELBOURNE.

August 21st, 1907.

A CORRECTION.

SIR,—In my paper "Notes on the Invertebrate Fauna of the Uitenhage Series in Cape Colony," published in the present volume of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, July number, pp. 289–295, an inaccurate statement was inadvertently allowed to pass into print. With reference to an assemblage of fossils mentioned on p. 290, the following sentence occurs, commencing on line 21 from the top of the page: "All these, so far as we know, are confined elsewhere to the Cretaceous rocks" This statement should not, of course, refer to the genus *Solecirtus*, and the sentence should read as follows: "All these, with the exception of *Solecirtus*, are, so far as we know, confined elsewhere to the Cretaceous rocks" I hope you will be able to give publicity to the correction of this oversight.

F. L. KITCHIN.



D. Elliott, Phot.

Fossil Plants from South Africa.

Fig. 1. *Phyllothea*. Figs. 2-4. *Osmundites*.