

The author gives a summary of previous writings bearing upon the geology of the Bermudas; but his own researches point to a rather more complicated series of changes than those which have been inferred by other writers. The formation of the "base-rock" or "beach-rock" occurred at some period which cannot be accurately ascertained at present, owing to the fragmentary nature of the included fossils. It may have been formed in Pleistocene or even late Tertiary times. After its formation it was converted into a dense limestone and then eroded, probably by subærial agents, and finally attacked by the waves at an elevation of at least 15 feet above present sea-level; during this stage it was covered by beach-deposits of pebbles and shells, which were accumulated in a period so recent that the contained fossils are of the same species as the organisms living in the neighbouring sea. Then followed an uplift, during which land-shells lived on the beach-deposits; but these were soon covered by blown sand, the principal accumulations of the islands, and the outline of the islands was perfected by the action of the winds. This was done at an elevation which was at one time certainly as much as 40 or 50 feet above present sea-level. The author adduces evidence of a depression since the accumulation, causing land to disappear and the outline of the area to become very irregular; and he proves that these changes cannot be accounted for solely by erosion, as some have maintained. There are indications that the land is at present quiescent. It appears, then, that most of the work of construction of the Bermudas has been done in recent times.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INDICATIONS OF EARTHQUAKE.

SIR,—The accounts of the recent earthquake which I have seen in an English paper, include references to the accompanying sound as resembling the noise "of a rushing wind." This recalls an observation of my own showing that the appreciation of such sounds varies at times from the subterranean or other rumblings so often recorded.

It was early in the seventies when I was reading over the fire one night in my "den" at Devonshire Cottage, Murree, elevated about 7,000 feet on the foot-hills of the Punjab outer Himalaya. The fire had burned low in a grate surmounted by an arch cut from a sandstone slab, which was cracked upwards from the crown, and for more warmth I had placed my feet against the slab on each side of the crack. A little later I noticed a "soughing" or sound of "rushing wind," as I thought, coming up the valley from Trêt, through the pine forests. Thinking this strange on a calm night I looked up and over my book, when I distinctly felt the motion of one of the small earthquakes not very uncommon in the Upper Punjab, and saw the old crack referred to open between my feet for more than half an inch, and close as the seismic wave passed onwards.

It may be this which fixed the character of the sound in my memory; at any rate, I do not recollect another earthquake accompanied by the sound of "rushing wind."

DAVAS DARP, SUISSE,
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