N.W. monsoon came from points of E., and not from W., as might have been anticipated.

In this journey I found the clouds at the Polar side of the S.E. Trade coming constantly from a point either side of the surface-wind, that is, from S.S.E. to E.S.E. When well in the Trade, the middle clouds always came from some point more east than the surface-wind, or in accordance with the usual circulation of the southern hemisphere. No high cirrus was ever observed.

We found no doldrum, but ran straight from the Trade, under a bank of cloud, into the N.W. monsoon, in about 12° S. latitude. In that monsoon the low and middle clouds always came a little more from the N. than the surface N.W. wind, or in the manner of the upper winds of the northern hemisphere. All the high cirri moved from E. or N.E., except on one occasion, when they came from S.

The N.E. monsoon which we picked up on the equator was so clear that I only obtained one observation of cirrus which came from N.E. when the surface-wind was N.N.E. The lower layers of cloud usually drove from the same direction as the surface-wind, though on one or two occasions they came from a point more N. than the surface.

The above results entirely confirm the observations described in my previous letter of a deep S.E. Trade and of an easterly current over the N.W. monsoon. RALPH ABERCROMBY

Colombo, February 15

Glacier Bay in Alaska

I THANK your correspondent, Mr. Chauncey Thomas, for pointing out my error in describing Glacier Bay as opening into Chilcoot Inlet, and for more exactly indicating its position. When I visited this region I was provided only with a small and inaccurate pocket-map, in which I found it difficult even to trace the course of the steamer, and I was under the impression that the whole of the fiord northward from Chatham Strait was known as Chilcoot Inlet, though my statement would still not be quite correct.

It may be well to add that my object in arranging my rough field-notes for publication was not to describe the glacier as a whole, but to draw attention to some uncompleted observations of special geological interest which it seemed to me ought to be made known as indications for future explorers; and it should be borne in mind that my estimates of heights and distances were only estimates based on opinion, and not on any system of actual measurement. The very limited time at my disposal, and my desire to get over as much ground as possible in that time, precluded the use of more satisfactory methods.

Bridlington Quay, March 13 G. W. LAMPLUGH

A Correction, and the Distribution of Appendicularia

(1) THE specimen which I referred to in NATURE (Jan. 7, p. 221) as being probably a new species of *Chætoderma*, has turned out on a more detailed examination not to be Chætoderma at all. Therefore I must withdraw the statement that that genus has been found in British seas.

(2) Can any of your readers who have been using the tow-net round our coasts give me information in regard to the occurrence of the Appendiculariidæ? Forbes and McAndrew found *Appendicularia* off the north coast of Scotland in 1845. Allman found it in the Firth of Forth in 1858, and Sanders at Torquay, 1873; and it has been taken by Huxley on the English coast. It was seen in quantity by Sorby off the south coast of England a couple of summers ago, and I obtained it in Lamlash Bay in 1880 and 1884, in Loch Fyne in 1883, and off the Mann coast in 1885. Apparently it is much commoner and more generally distributed than is usually supposed. I would be glad to hear of any additional records of the occurrence of the Appendiculariidæ in our seas. W. A. HERDMAN

University College, Liverpool

Morley's "Organic Chemistry"—Correction

IN my notice of Dr. Morley's "Organic Chemistry" in this week's NATURE, the reference to "Ladenburg's synthetic optically-inactive coniine (α-isopropylpiperidine)" (p. 436) contains an inaccuracy. Instead of "coniine" it should read "coniine-base." F. R. JAPP

Normal School of Science, March 11

"Peculiar Ice-Forms"

IN NATURE, vol. xxxi. p. 5, you allowed me to describe, under this heading, a curious and beautiful form of fibrous ice met with near Chamonix, which I, and other of your correspondents who discussed the matter, thought to be very unusual, though later communications seemed to show that it is commoner than we had supposed.

It may be interesting to note that a day or two ago I came upon the same form of ice in considerable quantity in a very unexpected locality, viz. on the path leading from Gerozano to Lake Nemi, in the Alban Hills. Attention was drawn to the circumstance by the crackling of the ice under foot, otherwise there was no visible indication of its presence except that, where it existed, the path was slightly damp (which was not the case on other parts of it), the dampness being evidently due to the partial melting of the upper stratum of the ice, which was everywhere covered with a layer of earth. The ice was almost exactly similar to that found at Chamonix, but only an inch and a half to two inches deep, and in three layers, easily detached from one another, and evidently the result of successive frosts.

We afterwards found that a bank beside the road between Albano and Frascati was covered with the same formation for several hundred yards; but it would certainly have escaped detection, being everywhere covered with earth, if our previous discovery had not led us to recognise it. This proves that it may often exist unnoticed.

The conditions were precisely similar to those under which this particular form of ice has been observed before—viz. a northerly aspect—a very porous soil (in this case volcanic), bright, sunny days, and clear nights with a low temperature.

Rome, March 12 B. WOODD SMITH

REMARKABLE DISCOVERY OF RARE METALS IN DILUVIAL CLAYS [1]

DR. STROHECKER, of Frankfort, has carefully examined and analysed the clay which is found in the neighbourhood of Hainstadt, near Seeligenstadt, and he has made the remarkable discovery that this clay, which has been largely used for building purposes, contains considerable quantities of some of the rare metals, and more especially cerium. The beds are extensive, and consist of layers differing considerably in appearance and composition.

The composition of picked samples of the two upper layers is as follows:—

	No. 1	No. 2a
SiO_2	47·5444	58·3331
TiO_2	trace	—
Al_2O_3	24·5937	11·7607
BeO	6·4399	5·3833
Fe_2O_3	0·9190	0·6356
$Ce_2(OH)_6$	13·4214	9·4012
DiO	—	0·8474
LaO	0·8576	2·6536
YO	—	1·6949
MgO	1·5901	1·8659
$CaCO_3$...	0·8878	—
$CaSO_4$...	0·1361	0·2015
CaO	—	0·5883
P_2O_5	trace	2·0691
K_2O	2·3236	0·5648
Na_2O	1·2137	0·5838
NH_4Cl...	—	0·0529
Loss on ignition ...	—	4·1057
	99·9273	100·7418

The cerium and yttrium oxides appear to be derived from orthite, which is known to occur in the syenite at Weinheim. The upper layer (No. 1) of the clay varies in colour from a bright flesh-colour to a dark cinnamon-brown, indicating that the cerium hydroxide, which is the colouring substance, varies in amount at different points. The bricks made from this clay vary in colour according to the temperature at which they are burnt, the lightly-burnt bricks having an orange-yellow colour, whilst those

[1] *Journal f. prakt. Chemie*, 1886, pp. 132 and 260.