

take them with many grains of salt. My observations have not been quite regular, and are wholly unscientific, and are confined to a very narrow area. In fact I cannot distinguish between a swallow and a martin when in flight, nor do I know what may be their differences in the affair of migration. I believe both kinds of swallow (to use the popular term) abound here in normal quantities, and I am told that swifts are comparatively scarce. But my own observation is of the shallowest and loosest character, confined indeed to the æsthetic side—viz. to admiration of the beauty and grace of the birds in dancing their endless reels.

Tuesday, September 1	...	multitudes of swallows.
Wednesday	2	...
Thursday	3	...
Friday	4	...
Saturday	5	...
Sunday	6	...
Monday	7	...
Tuesday	8	...
Wednesday	9	...
Thursday	10	...
Friday	11	...
Saturday	12	...

After this, the quantities were about normal: not remarkable for multitudes or for paucity.

Charlton House, Portbury, Bristol.

HOBHOUSE.

"The Scenery of Switzerland."

BEING away from home, I have only just seen NATURE of September 10, and I should like, with your permission, to make a few remarks on one or two points in Miss Ogilvie's review of my "Scenery of Switzerland."

With reference to the origin of transverse valleys, she says that I first describe them as due to erosion, and afterwards endeavour to explain them as the result of tectonic causes. I fear, therefore, that I have not made my meaning clear.

Some transverse valleys are no doubt entirely valleys of erosion, but in others the original direction is clearly the result of tectonic causes, though the depth may be due to erosion.

Miss Ogilvie goes on to remark that the idea that both longitudinal and transverse valleys "had their primal cause in tectonic movements, by no means finds its first exponent in Sir John Lubbock. It is perfectly familiar throughout the writings of Austrian and German geologists," and she gently blames me for not referring to them. But I made no such claim. Moreover, I quoted Prof. Bonney's interesting remarks on the fact. My suggested explanation is, however, quite different from that of the authors referred to by Miss Ogilvie. Their view was, in her own words, "that the transverse lines of weakness were planes of movement long after the longitudinal folds had ceased to move." My suggestion is, on the contrary, that transverse and longitudinal folds were simultaneous, and due to the same cause.

There is one other criticism on which I should like to say a few words.

Miss Ogilvie observes that "it is the greatest blemish in Sir John Lubbock's book that he nowhere gives a geological insight into the structure of the Monte Rosa massif of mountains from the Simplon Pass to the St. Bernard."

This difficult district was mapped by Gerlach, who was unfortunately killed by an accident before he had completed the letterpress.

No doubt there are several important memoirs on it, which I have read with interest. I had also the advantage of visiting it with Prof. Renevier and Prof. Golliez, and had, in fact, written several pages on the subject.

Certain of the rocks are, however, of such doubtful age, and there is so much difference of opinion, that the time has not yet, I think, arrived when a "geological insight" into this district can be given with confidence.

Under the circumstances, therefore, while regretting the omission, I thought it better not to make the attempt.

St. Andrews, September 21.

JOHN LUBBOCK.

THE LIVERPOOL MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

VI.—THE EXCURSION TO THE ISLE OF MAN.

A SCIENTIFIC account of the Isle of Man was given as an appendix to the Liverpool "Handbook." This five days' excursion to the island may almost be regarded as a supplementary meeting of the Association. About a hundred members, representative of the more or less Biological Sections C, D, H, and K, left Liverpool on Thursday morning by the *Prince of Wales*, one of the best boats of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, and made a rapid passage to Douglas. There they were met on arrival by His Honour Deemster Gill and other leading members of the Natural History Society, and were conveyed to Government House, where His Excellency Lord Henniker gave a reception to the party. Later in the afternoon the Zoologists and Botanists went by train to their headquarters at Port Erin, while the Geologists and Archaeologists settled down at Douglas.

The weather throughout has been rather tempestuous and unsettled, and has interfered to some extent with field work. Probably the Zoologists have suffered more than the other Sections, as they have been prevented from carrying out their proposed dredging expeditions. However the storms which rendered work at sea impossible made the shore-collecting more interesting, as vast quantities of *Laminaria* and others of the larger Algæ were cast up, with many animals attached or clinging to them.

The Zoological party included, in addition to the leaders (Prof. Herdman and Mr. Thompson), Prof. Poulton (Oxford), Dr. Hjort (Christiania), Dr. de Man (Holland), Dr. Gilchrist (Cape Town), and others. Both Zoologists and Botanists made considerable use of the Marine Biological Station at Port Erin for the examination and preservation of their specimens. On the Saturday, the Governor of the Island lunched with the party at Port Erin, and afterwards visited the Biological Station. The Botanists were largely engaged in marine work along with the Zoologists, but they also made several excursions into the glens and hills in search of mosses and other land plants. Amongst the more distinguished Botanists in the party were Profs. Weiss, Magnus, Pfitzer, Zacharias, and Chodat. All of them, as well as the foreign Zoologists, expressed themselves as deeply interested in the rich marine fauna and flora at Port Erin, and several made large collections.

The Archaeological party was under the leadership of Mr. P. M. C. Kernode and Prof. Haddon. Their programme was carefully arranged so as to include examples of nearly every object of antiquarian interest in the island, and, being practically independent of weather, was completely carried out.

Prof. Haddon reports as follows on the work of this Section of the party:—"On the first day a visit was paid to the church of Braddan, with its interesting Scandinavian and Celtic crosses; and the obscure alignments were inspected. At the Tynwald Hill, near Peel, Deemster Gill gave an account of the promulgation of the laws; the afternoon was spent at Peel Castle, examining the ruins. On Saturday forenoon the Attorney-General took the party round Rushen Castle and its small but interesting museum of Manx antiquities, and in the afternoon Dr. Herdman's Biological Station was visited, and the unique Neolithic grave circle, explored a few years ago by Kernode and Herdman, was carefully inspected, and the probable age and history were discussed by Dr. Montelius, Dr. Munro, and others. The party went to Ramsey on Monday, and on the way ascended the ancient hill fort of Cronk Sumark. At Ramsey, as elsewhere, local collections were exhibited, and the splendid series of casts of early crosses, got together by the enthusiasm of Mr. P. M. C. Kernode, was greatly appreciated; so much was