

My house here stands in a fairly open and elevated position, about 155 ft. O.D., with no higher ground in the immediate vicinity, or between me and Ypres. Many of my neighbours, who live in similar situations, also hear the sound, and recognise clearly what it is. It seems much less audible at lower elevations, and quite inaudible among houses. For instance, I cannot hear of its ever having been heard in the adjacent town of Chelmsford, or in any part of London.

MILLER CHRISTY.

Broom Wood Lodge, Chignal St. James,  
Chelmsford, October 19.

#### The Cumberland Earthquake of October 2.

I WAS interested to read the note in NATURE of October 21 (p. 208) referring to an earthquake in the Lake District, Cumberland, on October 2, at 3.15 a.m. My wife and I spent some weeks at Seatoller, Borrowdale, leaving on October 2. Early in the morning of that day we were awakened by a strange noise and the house vibrating. The noise and vibration were so completely similar to what occurs in my own house when the hot-water boiler is overheated and steam, condensing in the pipes, causes "hammering," that I was on the point of getting up to turn on the bathroom tap, when it ceased. As we were leaving in the morning the proprietors inquired if we had heard the noise in the night, and I replied at once that I had heard the hammering in the pipes of the hot-water system, but was told that it was quite impossible for the water to have been hot at the time. I had no idea of the true explanation until I read the note referred to. Seatoller is about 30 miles S.S.W. of Carlisle and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles N.N.E. of Scafell Pike. Possibly it may be of interest to record that at this place the earthquake was accompanied by concussions and vibrations sufficient to waken the inhabitants.

FREDERICK SODDY.

October 23.

#### The Etymology of "Chincough."

WHOOPIING-COUGH is, or used to be, called in the south of Scotland, "chincough," but the "ch" was hard, so that it sounded kincough, or kink-cough. In Jamieson's Scottish Dictionary the word "kink" has the meanings (1) a violent fit of coughing attended with suspension of breathing, (2) a regular fit of the chincough. "To kink" is to labour for breath in a severe fit of coughing. The more purely Scottish word for whooping-cough is "kinkhost," in the Belgic language *kink-hoest*.

L. B.

October 23.

THERE can, I think, be no doubt that "chincough" is a good English word, meaning whooping-cough and nothing else. It has nothing to do with *chien* (a dog), as Mr. Hart supposes (NATURE, October 21), or with chin, although to anyone who has noticed the depression and thrusting forward of the lower jaw during a paroxysm this derivation might seem probable. The word is, according to Skeat, properly chink-cough, and in Scotland and some parts of England a paroxysm is called a kink, which, again according to Skeat, means a catch in the breath, from kik, or kuk, to gasp, an imitative word, which is also the base of cough. The term kinkhost, still in use in Scotland, resembles the German equivalent, *keuchhusten*, which is also imitative. The French *coqueluche* is more puzzling, but probably has reference to the crowing inspiration which follows the expiratory spasm.

DAWSON WILLIAMS.

London, October 22.

NO. 2400, VOL. 96]

As your correspondent (NATURE, October 21) points out, chincough has certainly nothing to do with "hic-cough"; but has it anything to do with the French *chien*=a dog, as he supposes? Chincough is the softer English equivalent of the Scotch kink-host (Dutch, *kink-hoest*). Besides, the noun there is also the verb, to kink (O. Dutch, *kinken*=to cough), and even an Englishwoman, at least in the north, who calls the disease whooping-cough, will tell one when her child began to "kink" with its cough. My dictionary compares the word with the Anglo-Saxon "cincung"=a fit of laughter, and kink is sometimes also used in that sense, or in connection with any choking inspiratory spasm. Finally, there is nothing in the sound of whooping-cough to suggest a dog, though the cough of croup might do so. M. D.

#### Longitudes of Two Markings on Jupiter.

IN NATURE of October 14 the longitudes of the S. Tropical Disturbance and the Red Spot which I gave should be in each case minus  $75.14^\circ$ , if they are to correspond with the adopted period of System II. :—

S. Tropical Disturbance			Red Spot Hollow		
Date 1915	P. end	f. end	Date 1915	P. shoulder	f. shoulder
Sept. 11 ...	$313.1^\circ$ ...	—	Sept. 10 ...	—	$185.1^\circ$
13 ...	$310.8^\circ$ ...	—	12 ...	$149.5^\circ$ ...	—
20 ...	$308.4^\circ$ ...	—	17 ...	$149.1^\circ$ ...	$186.0^\circ$
21 ...	—	$42.6^\circ$	19 ...	$148.9^\circ$ ...	$187.6^\circ$
26 ...	—	$37.7^\circ$	27 ...	—	$185.1^\circ$
28 ...	—	$36.5^\circ$	29 ...	—	$185.1^\circ$
30 ...	$305.3^\circ$ ...	$35.3^\circ$			
Oct. 1 ...	—	$34.6^\circ$			

SCRIVEN BOLTON.

#### CHINESE DEFENSIVE ARMOUR.<sup>1</sup>

THE somewhat ponderous title of the work before us rather obscures the subject of this monograph, which is upon the origin and history of defensive armour, a theme of considerable cultural importance and here treated systematically for the first time. As a result, we have a masterly description of Oriental protective armour, and suggestive fresh light is also thrown upon certain sources of early Chinese civilisation.

The research is based primarily upon a large collection of ancient Chinese clay figures dug up (apparently by the author) from graves in the provinces of Shen-si and Ho-nan during the years 1908-1910, and deposited among the rich collections from the Far East now in the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, of which the author is a well-known curator and field-explorer.

The hides of the archaic Chinese cuirasses of the pre-metal age are ascribed by ancient tradition to two animals named respectively *Se* and *Si*, which are identified by the majority of sinologists with one or two species of rhinoceros. Dr. Laufer, who combines with his scientific physical training also a scholarly knowledge of Chinese, revises the Chinese texts at first hand, and appears to substantiate his identification of the *Se* as the single-horned and the *Si* as the two-horned Sumatran rhinoceros. In addition to the mass of mythological and folk-lore references to

<sup>1</sup> "Chinese Clay Figures." Part i., Prolegomena on the History of Defensive Armour. By B. Laufer. Field Museum of Natural History Publication 177, Anthropological Series, vol. xiii., No. 2. Pp. 69-315+64 plates. (Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History, 1914.)