

educated men we ought to have known we had no business to be going about the country. This was rather too strong, so I retorted, "That is nonsense; we have a right to take a walk along the roads to see the country." To cut a long story short, he departed, before our train arrived, with the remark that, if we had been photographing or sketching, he should have taken us into custody.

We were at nearest about seventeen miles from the sea. Neither at Louth (where we had spent a week) nor at Lincoln was any notice posted up in the hotel (or elsewhere, so far as we had seen) supporting his view, and we had not left the high road, except to enter two pits. It is therefore obvious that any village Dogberry may employ the "brief authority" with which he imagines himself clad to prevent all study of English geology or natural history.

T. G. BONNEY.

National Food Supply and Nutritional Value.

ONE of the remarks made in the article in NATURE of May 11 on my survey of the "Food Value of Great Britain's Food Supply" is certainly justified, namely, "the value for protein seems low." It is too low. This has arisen from taking an analysis for wheat flour in which the protein was 7.9 per cent., whereas it should be, more correctly, something like 10.7 per cent. Making an allowance for this difference increases the daily protein ration per man by 10.4 grams and brings it to 112.1 grams instead of 101.7. For a similar reason the carbohydrate should be reduced from 587.12 grams per man per day to 580.7 grams. Whether the fat should be reduced depends on the analysis adopted for the different kinds of meat. A recalculation, however, adopting different analyses, and perhaps, on the whole, more accurate ones, makes no material difference in the daily ration "as purchased." It certainly affords no ground for reduction; on the contrary, it shows an increase of 1.9 grams per man per day.

In conclusion, perhaps I may be permitted to express my grateful appreciation of the very fair and sympathetic way in which your article, as a whole, is written and for the opportunity it affords of making these corrections, which I hope to publish later in detail.

W. H. THOMPSON.

Trinity College, Dublin, May 15.

I AM glad to find that Prof. Thompson has discovered a reason for giving us a more reassuring figure concerning the national supply of protein. It is now clear that we have a larger margin upon which to draw in case retrenchment should prove necessary.

Readers of NATURE should be grateful to Prof. Thompson for making the correction, and I have myself to thank him for the courtesy of his letter.

THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.

May 19.

The Lower Greensand Flora.

IN the kind review of my work on the Lower Greensand Flora in NATURE of May 4 your reviewer states that I have overlooked a memoir by Buckland. This is the Bridgewater treatise. May I point out (1) that I was dealing with Lower Greensand and not Portland Oolite plants, and therefore not professing to give a complete account of the latter, but merely referred to Buckland's *original* memoir, in which the name of the genus was founded, for purposes of nomenclature; (2) that, even though in the later work (the Bridgewater treatise) Buckland figures a specimen with the "lateral buds," which are probably

cones, it remains the fact, as I stated, that no cones are figured in the original *type*; (3) that the Bridgewater treatise example can only be accepted as being the same species as the original type by an assumption that they were, in fact, identical, because, as I stated, the original type specimen is lost; (4) that, consequently, it is not carelessness, but a perhaps over-meticulous scrupulousness in nomenclature which made me, and still makes me, hesitate to accept as a certainty the identity of the so-called *Cycadites microphyllus* of the Bridgewater treatise with the lost original vegetative type of *Cycadeoidea microphyllus*, in spite of the top part of the drawing.

MARIE C. STOPES.

OVERLOOKING a reference is at least to some of us too common an occurrence to need an elaborate defence. My point is that Buckland's later description of one of his species, *Cycadeoidea microphylla*, is fatal to an important argument used by Dr. Stopes. Buckland expressed no doubt as to the specific identity of the specimen figured in the Bridgewater treatise with that on which the original account was based, and, whether or not the stems belong to the same species, there are no adequate grounds for doubting their generic identity. The natural course to pursue in endeavouring to solve a problem is to consider such evidence as is available, and, as regards the question at issue, I maintain that the evidence overlooked by Dr. Stopes furnishes a serious—in my opinion a fatal—objection to her conclusions.

A. C. S.

Meteorological Conditions of a Blizzard.

THE word "blizzard," signifying originally a type of snowstorm most common and most severe in the Rocky Mountain States of the Union, although occasionally occurring elsewhere, is now loosely used to mean any heavy snowstorm. This is unfortunate, for a term is needed for the type of storm referred to above. Three things must co-exist in a blizzard—large quantities of very fine snow; very low temperature, generally below zero Fahrenheit; and a high wind of great velocity.

Apparently the loose use of the word is becoming common in Great Britain, for you refer in NATURE of April 6 (p. 129) to "a blizzard of unusual severity." The context shows that neither the snow nor the temperature condition could have been fulfilled, for you say that the gale "was accompanied by rain and snow."

I doubt very much whether the British Isles could produce the requisite conditions for a real blizzard.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.

St. Louis, Mo., April 24.

THE ROUTLEDGE EXPEDITION TO EASTER ISLAND.

NOW that members of Mr. Scoresby Routledge's expedition to Easter Island have returned to this country, it is possible to give some idea in broad outline of the objects of the expedition and of its chief results. The expedition, which was aided by grants from the British Association and the Royal Society, was exceptionally well equipped. It also had the advantage of being independent of the infrequent opportunities of communication with Easter Island, as Mr. Routledge had built and fitted at his own expense the schooner *Mana*, of 126 tons, with auxiliary motor power, in which the expedition sailed from