

Naturally Fractured Eocene Flints.

At a meeting of the Geological Society of London, held on May 5, Mr. S. Hazzledine Warren read a paper entitled "A Natural 'Eolith' Factory beneath the Thanet Sand." The discovery of flints fractured by natural pressure at the base of the Eocene is not, however, a novel experience, as, in 1910, M. l'Abbé H. Breuil described ("Sur la présence d'Eolithes a la base de l'Eocène Parisien," *L'Anthropologie*, t. xxi., 1910, pp. 385-408) in great detail, and by means of no fewer than seventy-six excellent illustrations, a series of flaked specimens of the same kind as those now put forward by Mr. Warren. Also, in 1914, I published an account of the flaked flints occurring in the Lower Eocene "Bull-head" bed at Bramford, near Ipswich (Proc. P.S.E.A., vol. i., part 4, pp. 397-404), and gave a full account of this peculiar deposit and the nature of the fractures exhibited by some of the contained flints. It will thus be seen that this question has been fully discussed and threshed out for many years past.

Through Mr. Warren's courtesy I was enabled, before the meeting at the Geological Society's rooms, to examine his material, and I at once recognised that the flake-scars to be seen upon the specimens showed every characteristic of those produced by pressure. Though of interest as corroborating earlier finds, Mr. Warren's flints have no bearing upon the specimens discovered by me in the Sub-Red Crag detritus-bed and other ancient deposits. The flaked flints which I have collected and claimed as humanly fashioned exhibit flake-scars produced by intelligently directed blows, as is clear to anyone examining them and familiar with the obvious and fundamental differences between pressure and percussion flaking. Further, it is also clear that these pressure-fractured Eocene flints are not comparable with the specimens first found by Mr. Benjamin Harrison, which have been known by that much misused term "eoliths."

J. REID MOIR.

Ipswich, May 7.

International Council for Fishery Investigations.

THE writer (X. Y. Z.) on this subject in NATURE of April 29 seems to beat the air. There is no confusion of the general discussion with the deliberate statement of the council that "the study of the effect of the war in having closed great areas would materially assist the council in arriving at the most practical results." The closure of certain areas, for ten years or more, by the Scottish Fishery Board has already shown that such is without material effect on Nature's ways. Further, it is just the consideration of the almost valueless mass of certain statistics that, amongst other things, has led to the view that, judged by its promises and performances, the "International Council for the Investigation of the Sea," so far as the welfare of the British fisheries is concerned, is a serious waste of public money. The Development Commission's "almost judicial committee" cannot alter that conclusion.

W. C. MCINTOSH.

2 Abbotsford Crescent, St. Andrews,
May 7.

Sea and Sky at Sunset.

IN a note on the Royal Academy in NATURE of May 6 "J. S. D." expresses disbelief in the possibility that a red sunset can give rise to a pure blue colour in the sea.

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Last summer and autumn I occupied a small house on the French coast near Boulogne, and I had the good fortune to witness some of the most wonderful sunsets I have ever seen. The sun used to set across the Channel immediately in front of our windows, and the light of the setting sun was reflected not only in the sea itself, but also in the pools left by the tide along the seashore.

On several occasions when the setting sun was a deep crimson in a purple sky the sea was an intense blue, while the reflection on the water suggested molten gold. The contrast between the purple and crimson of the sky and the blue and gold of the sea was very beautiful, and the effect is not one which I shall readily forget.

As the sea is never free from ripples, it is possible that some of the light reaching the eye is transmitted through the water, but whatever may be the explanation there is no doubt about the reality of the effect.

K. E. EDGEWORTH.

Crowborough, May 9.

READERS of NATURE will welcome Col. Edgeworth's description of what a sunset over the sea can be like, but those who have had an opportunity of studying the picture in this year's Academy to which reference was made will not find any difficulty in distinguishing between the reality as described by him and the artist's conception of the reality as seen at Burlington House.

As to Col. Edgeworth's description of sunsets seen over the English Channel, few who have spent holidays on a western sea-coast, or even on the reaches of a winding river like the Thames, can be unfamiliar with the pillar of gold seen in the water through the reflection of the sun's disc on the rippled surface. The golden reflection beneath the sun and the dark blue reflection beneath the sky may give rise to marked contrasts, but there is nothing unnatural in these. In the picture referred to it is far otherwise. The sun is not visible, but the whole sky is red, and where reflected light would cause innumerable spots of red upon the crests of the ripples no colour but blue is shown.

J. S. D.

Scientific Research.

IN common with other subscribers to the Scientific Research Association, I recently received an intimation from the acting secretary and the treasurer that the support accorded to it was not sufficient to justify the establishment of the proposed organisation. There can, however, be no question of the importance of the aim the association had set itself—the promotion of research, irrespective of the economic advantages it may bring with it; and it may be some satisfaction to those who feel this to know that the National Union of Scientific Workers has formed a research council to promote the interests of research for its own sake. It is desired to make this council as representative as possible of every branch of scientific investigation. Communications from all who have the success of such a movement at heart should be addressed to the secretary of the National Union, Major Church, 19 Tothill Street, S.W.1, or to myself.

JOHN W. EVANS.

Imperial College of Science and Technology,
South Kensington, May 10.