

as the typical camptonite in the Pemigewasset Valley, N. H.

By diligent investigation it was my good fortune last August to discover in the locality of these ramifying dikes and the famous Corinth copper mines an extraordinary dike of limburgite, from 6 to 10 feet in width, and penetrating the calciferous mica schist toward the west for more than half a mile.

This limburgite bears individual crystals of olivine two to three inches in length and one to two inches in breadth. A single specimen has been placed in the museum of Dartmouth College containing a crystal of olivine two and one-half inches by one and three-fourths.

Some of the smaller crystals by the oxidation of the iron have become converted into limonite or hematite; others have gone over into serpentine, while a bit of calcite derived from the contiguous orthorhombic pyroxene or the basic plagioclase feldspar is occasionally seen in the cavities once filled by the original olivine crystals.

As the locality is to the northward in the exact direction of the moving ice, and at a distance of only about twenty miles from the famous Thetford boulders, it seems evident that Corinth, Vt., was their original habitat.

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#### MORE DICTIONARY ZOOLOGY.

SOME time ago I called attention in your columns to the inaccurate zoological information given by a recently published dictionary. I have just had occasion to examine the *Encyclopædic Dictionary* (Philadelphia, 1896) and should like to ask how the editors explain the following eccentricities:

- (1.) *Snail*. "*H. aspera* is also eaten." *Helix aspersa* is the snail intended; *H. aspera* is a totally different snail, found in the West Indies.
- (2.) *Slug*. "*A. agrestis*, the Red Slug." There is no *Arion agrestis*. The article, with its errors, appears to have been taken (without acknowledgments) from an old edition of *Chambers' Encyclopædia*. If the editors had examined the recent edition of that standard work, published several years before 1896, they would have found a different account.

- (3.) *Coccus*. The species assigned to *Coccus* belong to seven perfectly distinct genera; and no author in the last twenty-five years who has given any study to these insects has used the last century classification of the *Encyclopædic Dictionary*.

The editors of dictionaries will have to realize that if their zoological definitions and articles are to be accurate and up-to-date they must employ specialists to write or revise them. Until they do so, zoologists should make it their business to call attention to the misrepresentation of their science in works which the public is asked to receive as models of accuracy.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1897.

#### LANTERN TRANSPARENCIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Those who have occasion to have copies of engravings or pictures of any kind made for use with the lantern may be glad to know that such may be printed from the plates used in ordinary printing if sheets of thin transparent celluloid be taken. Gelatin also may be used. The latter is liable to roll up more or less and needs to be protected by inclosing between glass plates of the ordinary size for lantern slides. Celluloid will not trouble so much in that way, yet it is best to mount such pictures in the same way. Photographic half-tones show very well indeed, the fine meshing not being enough magnified nor dense enough to be noticed upon the screen at the distance of a few feet. Such copies need cost but a few cents apiece if the electro can be got to print from, and if celluloid be used without the glass cover perhaps one cent would be the full cost. I enclose a couple of samples that you may judge of the quality of such pictures.

A. E. DOLBEAR.

#### DANGERS OF FORMALIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Now that the use of formalin for preserving objects for dissection is becoming so common, I think a word of warning as to the danger involved in the use of even attenuated solutions should be given. It is doubtless a matter for the medical faculty to