

Notes

Tasmanian Trilobites

Attention is directed to a paper entitled 'Notes on Some Ordovician Faunas of Tasmania', by Teiichi Kobayashi, published in the Japanese 'Journal of Geology and Geography', Volume XIII, Numbers 1 and 2, March, 1936, page 178.

The learned author is a world-famous palaeontologist, and Tasmanian geologists express their appreciation of this interesting contribution to one of our problems.

The conclusion reached by the author from examining material from Caroline Creek and the Florentine Valley is that the trilobite fauna preserved in the sandstones of these localities are of Lower Ordovician age, not Cambrian as previously considered. These sandstones are regarded by Tasmanian geologists to be the lowest members of the extensive series of rocks which lie between the Pre-Cambrian schists and the West Coast conglomerates (base of the Silurian). The effect of this revision of fossil evidence will be to remove *Cambrian* as a term from our successional nomenclature, and confirm the generally accepted view that the very extensive and economically important beds which underlie the West Coast Range Conglomerate Series (e.g., Read-Rosebery Schists, Dundas Slates, Mathinna Slates, Balfour Slates) are of Ordovician age.

Kobayashi describes a new genus under the name *Tasmanocephalus*. This replaces the forms described as *Conocephalites? stephensi* Etheridge. The genus (three species) of *Ptychoparia?* disappear, but the author is not prepared to redescribe these forms from the material available. *Dikelocephalus florentinensis* becomes *Asaphopsis florentinensis* Etheridge, and *Dikelocephalus tasmanicus* Etheridge is regarded as similar to the genus *Tachungshania*, but of uncertain species.

Kobayashi also refers to the occurrence of *Rebeiria* or *Rebeivella* in the Table Cape Conglomerates, and assigns a Silurian age. A note of caution must be sounded here, since these fossils were found in Permian glacial tillite, associated with material some of which has not been found *in situ* in Tasmania.

In an associated paper (*ibid.*, p. 163) the author states interesting views on the distribution of the *Dikelocephalininae*, and shows the relationship between the lower Ordovician fauna of Tasmania and that of Southern Europe, China, and Northern America, suggesting a connecting link in dispersal between Southern Europe and Asia on the one hand, and Northern America on the other, as to which Tasmania can supply vital data.

In view of this recent work, it is suggested that the term *Dicoelcephalus Sandstones* should be discontinued, and replaced by the term *Caroline Creek Series*. It is apparent that the interesting fauna of the Caroline Creek and Tim Shea (Florentine) sandstones is worthy of more detailed attention than has hitherto been accorded.

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Biological Survey of Tasmania

Early in 1937 a movement was set on foot by a committee of scientists resident in Hobart to undertake a biological survey of the State.

Among the purposes of the projected survey are the determination of the distribution of plants and animals of especial interest within the State; the preparation of lists of the described fauna and flora; ecological surveys of selected districts; and an analysis of the effect of introduced animals and plants on the indigenous fauna and flora. It is expected that the survey will yield information of great interest, and will probably bring to light forms of life previously unknown to science.

The headquarters of the survey are at the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, and the Director of the Museum, Dr. J. Pearson, is the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Survey. Funds are being made available by the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, the Commonwealth Science and Industry Endowment Fund, the State Fauna Board, and by the Forestry Department.