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OF THE
GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.

**A CORRELATION OF THE BRITISH PERMO-
TRIASSIC ROCKS.**

**PART I. NORTH ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND
IRELAND.**

By R. L. SHERLOCK, D.Sc., A.R.C.Sc., F.G.S.

[Read Jan. 8th, 1926.]

I. INTRODUCTION.

In 1911 I published a paper showing how, in Nottinghamshire, the so-called Permian formation passes gradually into so-called Trias, and I suggested that this phenomenon is general. Since that date, examination of a great part of the Permo-Triassic rocks of this country has confirmed that view, and I am convinced that the divisions of the Permo-Trias, in Britain, are not time-divisions, but represent, to a considerable extent, merely different conditions of deposition. If, however, the formation of "Keuper" in one place occurred contemporaneously with the formation of "Bunter" in another, and of Magnesian Limestone in a third, our classification breaks down, and it becomes necessary to find new time-divisions. Fossils, if present, would of course offer the best means of classification, but our Bunter and Keuper are almost entirely devoid of fossils. Although in places the Magnesian Limestone contains them, they do not necessarily indicate, as is often assumed, that the limestone belongs to an older system than the Bunter and Keuper. We cannot compare something with nothing; or the fauna of a fossiliferous with that of an unfossiliferous deposit. The evidence of superposition and detailed mapping, as I have shown (Sherlock, 1911)*, is that the usual assumption of the relative ages of the deposits is untrue, at least in Nottinghamshire.

It has been customary in sub-dividing the Permo-Trias to commence at the bottom and work upwards. This method is open to grave objections. In Britain the Permo-Trias formations are always unconformable to and rest upon an uneven surface of the rocks below. By tracing the upper gypsum horizon across England it becomes clear that the base of the Rhaetic Beds is conformable to the Keuper below, and as it is a plane easily found, all classifications of the British New Red rocks should begin with it; *i.e.*, at the

* For references see pp. 63-69.

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