

The question of the affinities of the group, somewhat obscurely set forth, is disappointing. No allowance seems to have been made for homoplastic characters, and as a consequence much has been allowed to rank as evidence that should have been eliminated as of no value when questions of kinship are concerned.

But, in spite of the drawbacks which we have pointed out, Prof. Seeley's book is extremely interesting, and one which is bound to command a large number of readers.

The work is profusely illustrated, for the most part with original drawings. Apart from the illustrations, to which we have already referred, we must take exception to figs. 17 and 18, neither of which is anything more than approximately correct, to say the least.

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

November 6th, 1901.—J. J. H. Teall, Esq., M.A., V.P.R.S.,  
President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read:—

‘On the Clarke Collection of Fossil Plants from New South Wales.’ By Edward Alexander Newell Arber, Esq., B.A.

This collection, numbering nearly 2600 specimens of all kinds, including some 80 fossil plant-remains, was presented to the Woodwardian Museum, Cambridge, in November 1844.

The following is the stratigraphical succession in New South Wales:—

4. Wianamatta & Hawkesbury Beds.
3. Newcastle Beds.
2. Marine or Muree Beds. {
  - c. Upper Marine Beds.
  - b. Lower Coal-Measures.
  - a. Lower Marine Beds.
1. *Lepidodendron*-beds (Arowa &c.).

Four species from the Wianamatta Series are described, fourteen species (including one new one) from the Newcastle Series, and two from the Arowa Beds. Of the twelve new types described by McCoy \*, five (namely, *Odontopteris microphylla*, *Sphenopteris plumosa*, *Glossopteris linearis*, *Phyllothea ramosa*, and *Ph. Hookeri*) are no longer considered as such. One new type has been added.

The age of the beds is then discussed. Such evidence as the few plants in the Clarke Collection afford, supports Feistmantel's conclusion that the Wianamatta Beds are of Triassic age. *Thinnfeldia odontopteroides* occurs in Rhætic Beds in South America, and the identification of Rattee's *Salisburia palmata* with the American *Baiera multifida*, and a comparison with the Rhætic *Baiera Steinmanni* of Chile, is a new point in favour of this conclusion. The plants also support Feistmantel's opinion that the Newcastle Beds are equivalent to the Permian of Europe. The exact horizon and age of the Arowa Beds must for the present remain doubtful.

\* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. vol. xx. 1847.



1902. "Proceedings of Learned Societies." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 9, 320–320.

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