

Letter to the Editors

A LOWER ROTLIEGEND FLORA FROM AYRSHIRE

SIRS—I learnt with great interest from his paper that Dr. Wagner (1983) now supports the view that the Keele Beds of the English Midlands appear to contain a late-Stephanian or Autunian flora. These plant identifications bring the floral evidence into line with that of the fauna including, most notably, the views of Haubold and Serjeant (1973) who have ascribed a Stephanian B age to these beds. It conflicts however with the opinions of other palaeontologists such as Butterworth and Smith (1976), and the official view of the Institute of Geological Sciences, who still regard the Keele Beds as being of Westphalian D age.

In the English Midlands, there is a passage at the base of the predominantly red Keele Beds down into the predominantly grey Halesowen Beds which in turn rest unconformably (or with non-sequence) upon various levels in the Carboniferous, Devonian and Silurian (the miners' Symon 'Fault'). This Symon Unconformity extends southwards from Coventry into the Oxfordshire Coalfield where the correlatives of the Keele and Halesowen Beds rest directly upon Devonian and older rocks (Poole 1977, fig. 13; 1978, fig. 9). Farther afield in the Saar Coalfield this unconformity appears to be at the same level as the unconformity at the base of the Conglomérat de Holz which is Stephanian A in age (Poole 1976). It would be interesting to learn whether Dr. Wagner now agrees with these correlations and if not, where would he draw the base of the Stephanian in the English Midlands?

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