

vinced would have met every exigency of the case ; and under careful supervision and due watchfulness against fire, if properly constructed, would have been free from all the objections as to flexure, and consequent decay, which Mr. Stephenson urges against wood as applied to suspension bridges, and would have endured until a more complete development of the railway traffic might warrant the enormous expenditure now being incurred ;—thus saving a present outlay of upwards of £300,000.

A. B.

## SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY NOTES.

### GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.

#### NEW CRUSTACEANS FROM THE SILURIAN ROCKS OF SCOTLAND.

The February Number of the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London, contains a series of papers of much interest on several new forms of Crustacea from the Parish of Lesmahago in Lanarkshire. These were discovered by Mr. Robert Slimon. The beds in which they occur have been examined by Sir Roderick Murchison and Professor Ramsay, who consider them to belong to the top band of the Upper Silurians—the equivalents of the “Tilestones” or Upper Ludlow series, previously unrecognised in that part of the country. The fossils discovered by Mr. Slimon have many apparent affinities with Eurypterus or Pterygotus. As shewn by Mr. Salter, however, they constitute no less than five distinct species of a new genus, named by him, *Himantopterus*, from the peculiar thong-like aspect of the swimming feet. The eyes are apparently situated on the extreme lateral margin of the anterior portion of the head-shield : a character serving to distinguish these new forms very readily from Eurypteri, which, otherwise, in general appearance they much resemble. Of the chelate antennæ, however, there appears to have been only a single pair. The largest of the discovered species is considered to have been at least three feet in length. Professor Huxley has appended some very able remarks to Mr. Salter's descriptions, in which he points out many striking relations between this new genus *Himantopterus*, and a particular section of the Stomapods on the one hand, and certain larval forms of *Macroura* (the “zoæa” of a few years' back) on the other. Amongst the Lanarkshire specimens also, discovered by Mr. Slimon, were some very complete forms of the genus *Ceratiocaris* of M'Coy, previously very imperfectly known.

#### ASAPHUS CANADENSIS.

Specimens of *Asaphus platycephalus*—the *Isotelus gigas* of many authors, are well known to abound amongst the trilobites from the Utica Schist of Whitby, Port Hope, &c., in Canada West. After *Triarthrus Beckii*, the species in question is perhaps the most abundant fossil of these localities. The principal feature in *Asaphus platy-*