

THE
GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE

VOLUME LVII.

No. VIII.—AUGUST, 1920.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SIR AUBREY STRAHAN, K.B.E., Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S., retired in July from the post of Director of the Geological Survey. He is succeeded by Dr. J. S. Flett, O.B.E., F.R.S., who has hitherto been Assistant Director of the Scottish branch. Mr. G. W. Lamplugh, F.R.S., Assistant Director for England and Wales, lately President of the Geological Society of London, has also retired. from the Survey.

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WE greatly regret to announce the death of Dr. Wheelton Hind, which took place on June 21 after a short illness. Owing to want of space an appreciation of his geological work is held over till next month. We have also in hand a paper by Dr. Hind on the Distribution of British Carboniferous Nautiloids, received only a few days before his death; this it is hoped to publish very shortly. Dr. A. Scott, of Stoke-upon-Trent, has kindly agreed to correct the proofs and see the paper through the press.

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THE 88th annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Cardiff from August 24 to August 28, 1920, under the presidency of Professor W. A. Herdman, C.B.E., D.Sc., Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S., who will in his address give a general survey of Oceanography, and will deal with certain special problems in detail. The meetings of Section C (Geology) will be held in the Technical College. The president of this section will be Dr. F. A. Bather, F.R.S., and the secretaries are Dr. A. R. Dwerryhouse, Dr. W. T. Gordon, Dr. G. Hickling, and Professor A. H. Cox.

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THE Geophysical meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society for next session have been fixed as follows: November 5, Geodesy; December 3, Terrestrial Magnetism; February 4, to be arranged; March 4, Seismology; May 6, Meteorology; June 17, Geodesy. All Fellows of the Geological Society are invited to attend, and fuller particulars will appear in *Nature*, or can be obtained on application to the Assistant Secretary, Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, W. 1.

WE have received from the Yorkshire Geological Society a circular setting forth that the Society is anxious to develop the study of Yorkshire rivers along the lines that have proved so fruitful in America. With their customary enterprise the Council have formulated a comprehensive scheme, for which they desire to enlist the aid of workers in all cognate sciences, whether members of the Society or not. As a matter of fact the work was begun in the Washburn valley last summer, and will be continued there, but it is hoped to extend it to other rivers throughout the county. The circular very wisely points out that a precise knowledge of tectonic structure is of fundamental importance in such a study, since this must affect the origin and evolution of the rivers; hence workers are invited in the first instance to record with precision the dip of the rocks in their respective areas. This is not quite so easy as it sounds at first, as all field-workers are well aware, owing to landslips, surface-creep, current-bedding, and other causes which need not be specified here. The importance of a record of faults and dominant joints is also insisted on. Besides these purely geological points, information is also desirable as to records of rainfall and the heights attained by floods and their frequency. Recent experiences in Lincolnshire have demonstrated the geological potency of sudden floods. With regard to the actual carrying out of the work, it is proposed, wherever possible, to form local committees, and all those interested are invited to communicate with the Secretary, Mr. H. E. Wroot, Pollard Lane, Bradford.

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THE Government has now introduced into Parliament the promised Bill for the establishment of a Ministry of Mines, and, frankly, it is a very disappointing document. It is a good point, in view of economy, that the Ministry is to be a Department of the Board of Trade and not entirely new and independent, but beyond this we find little to praise. The provisions of the Bill are almost entirely concerned with coal-mining, and non-ferrous mining is only once specifically mentioned. It is provided that the Minister *shall* appoint a committee to advise him regarding coal, and that he *may* appoint a similar one to deal with other mines and quarries. We must hope that the metalliferous mining industry will make its needs known with sufficient force in the proper quarters, so that more consideration may be shown to an important industry by the Act in its final shape.