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EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE regret to have to record that our colleague, Dr. Henry Woodward, died at his home at Bushey, Herts, on 6th September, in his 89th year. He retained his active interest in our work almost until the end, and passed away peacefully in the presence of his family.

In association with the late Professor T. Rupert Jones, Dr. Woodward founded the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE in July, 1864, and from July, 1865, to December, 1918, he edited every number except one, which he entrusted to his nephew, the late Horace B. Woodward, when he felt overcome by the loss of his younger son in 1901. His task was, indeed, more than that of editing, for he was faced with the usual difficulty of technical periodicals—a circulation too restricted for financial success. At intervals he had to enlist the sympathy and help of generous friends, whom he found always ready to second his disinterested efforts to promote geological science by maintaining a regular serial publication.

It has been well said that since 1864 every British recruit to geology has begun his career as an author in the pages of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE. Dr. Woodward's genial personality and note of encouragement were always stimulating to beginners, and even when he considered drastic editing necessary, his tactful ways usually smoothed all difficulties. His wise advice on the presentation of a subject often turned unacceptable efforts into valuable contributions, and his judicious treatment of over-eager correspondents not infrequently softened acrimonious controversies into reasonable discussions. His hospitable reception of many papers which had been refused elsewhere was by no means the least of the services he rendered to geological science as editor. He was, indeed, an impartial critic of every genuine effort to advance.

A full biography of Dr. Woodward will appear in a later number.

AT the first meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Metalliferous Mining Industry the Secretary for Mines, Mr. W. C. Bridgeman, M.P., welcomed the members in an opening speech. After deploring the depressed state of the mining industry, he went on to state, in emphatic terms, that the Government could in no circumstances afford any financial assistance. One must suppose that the industry as a whole does not command enough votes to be of any importance for electoral purposes. It would be a matter of much interest to compare the amounts of public money spent on coal mining and metalliferous mining respectively. With one portion of the speech we are in hearty agreement: "he thought that the mining industry in this country had suffered in the past from an insufficient acquaintance with geological information in regard to all its metals." This is certainly true, but of late a good deal has been done to remedy this defect, especially by the publication of the valuable series of Special Reports of the Geological Survey on the Mineral Resources of Great Britain. We are glad to note that the Secretary for Mines went on to state that arrangements had been made for co-operation between his department and the Geological Survey in this matter. From this much good should arise.

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PROFESSOR W. G. FEARNSIDES, of Sheffield University, has gone to Canada and the United States on a year's leave in order to study geological conditions in those countries. In his absence the geological department at Sheffield will be in charge of Mr. W. H. Wilcockson, Lecturer in Geology.

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DR. ARTHUR HOLMES, formerly Assistant Demonstrator in Geology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, has lately returned to Burma, after a trip home on leave. He will in future reside at Yenangyaung in order to manage the oil and coal fields of the Yomah Oil Company. We understand that Dr. L. Dudley Stamp will shortly proceed to Burma to undertake geological work under the same company.

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DR. STANLEY SMITH recently sailed for Canada to take up the duties of Assistant Professor of Geology at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

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THE 89th meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Edinburgh from 7th to 13th September, did not present any features of outstanding interest to geologists. The President of the Association, Sir T. F. Thorpe, devoted part of his inaugural address to an account of the organization and work of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the latest body to assume control of the Geological Survey. On another page we give a list of the papers read in Section C (Geology). Besides these papers

there were joint discussions with other sections on the Mid-Scotland Canal, the Oldest Land Flora, and that well-worn subject, the Age of the Earth. We are not aware that any new geological evidence has recently come to light bearing on this question, which has been abundantly discussed in recent years by Professor Sollas and others.

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DR. J. S. FLETT, F.R.S., President of Section C, devoted his address to the fascinating subject of Experimental Geology, with special reference to the work of Sir James Hall of Dunglass, and its bearing on modern research. We greatly regret that we are unable to afford space to reprint this address in full in the Magazine. It should be read by all petrologists, to whom it will afford much food for thought. We feel sure that few geologists of the present day are acquainted with the wonderful work carried out by Hall a century ago in the investigation of the behaviour of rocks and minerals at high temperatures, and we must be grateful to Dr. Flett for his appreciative sketch of this great Scotsman and great geologist.

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THE excursion of the Geologists' Association to Belgium from 20th August to 3rd September was attended with much success. The general direction of the excursion was in the competent hands of Dr. L. Dudley Stamp, and the domestic arrangements were excellently and efficiently managed by Miss M. S. Johnston, Mr. R. S. Herries, and Mr. W. Wright. Consequently everything went off without a hitch, in spite of the difficulty of securing accommodation for a party of nearly fifty in remote places. The following gentlemen most kindly conducted excursions to the localities which they have made their special study: M. A. Renier, M. F. Halet, and Dr. E. Asselberghs, of the Geological Survey of Belgium; Professor J. Cornet, of the School of Mines, Mons; M. Eug. Mailloux, of the Musée Royale d'Histoire Naturelle, Brussels; the Abbé G. Delépine of the Catholic University of Lille, Dr. P. Pruvost, and M. Kaisin. The party stayed at Brussels, Mons, Nismes (for the Couvin district), and Namur, and visited numerous sections in the Devonian, Carboniferous, Cretaceous, and Tertiary rocks, as well as obtaining a glimpse of the Silurians of the Brabant massif and inspecting the vast porphyry quarries at Quenast, the source of so much of the horrible *pavé* of Belgian roads. Professor Dollo also kindly showed the party over the geological department of the Musée Royale at Brussels, and gave a most interesting description of the wonderful collection of reptilian remains, while on the same occasion M. Rutot explained the collection of flint implements. The organizers of this excursion are to be heartily congratulated on the success that attended their labours, which must have been of the most arduous nature.