

THE
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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Editors have been much gratified by the kind response that they have received to their appeal for the support of geologists both at home and abroad in their endeavour to secure the continuance of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE. Numerous letters have come to hand from all quarters promising valuable assistance, both moral and material, in their campaign against the adverse conditions that at one time threatened the very existence of the Magazine. The Editors felt sure from the beginning that it was only necessary to inform their friends of the critical situation in order to enlist their help, and this confidence has been abundantly justified, so much so that it is now possible to look forward to the future with some degree of assurance, although it is still clear that the margin of safety is not yet adequate to ensure against difficulties arising from a further possible increase in the cost of production. The strictest economy will still be essential in every way. It may perhaps clear the air and avoid any possible misunderstanding if it is generally understood that the editorship is now a labour of love, at any rate in the sense that it is not remunerated. It is hoped that this condition is only temporary, and that it may in a while be possible to revert to the former state of affairs, but at present even a small editorial salary is inconsistent with the continuance of the Magazine. It is, of course, impossible to cater with equal success for all tastes, and the Editors can only do what they think will give most satisfaction to the majority of readers. Although a certain amount of criticism has been received, yet this is far outweighed by the mass of favourable comment coming from many quarters, for which the Editors are duly grateful.

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A SPECIALLY pleasing feature has been the active support obtained from sources outside this country; from the British Dominions overseas, and especially from the United States of America. Kindly letters have come to hand from South Africa, New Zealand, and many other countries where geology flourishes. But the best news of all comes from America. On New Year's Day a cable was received from Boston, stating that the Geological Society of America has guaranteed to find forty new subscribers for the present year. This

great assistance we owe largely to the efforts of our kind friends and contributors, Dr. J. M. Clarke, of Albany, and Mr. P. E. Raymond, of Harvard, to whom we hereby tender our hearty thanks. It is events of this kind that encourage us to carry on in the hope of promoting that worldwide exchange of geological thought which we have so much at heart, and which we firmly believe to be so beneficial to the science of geology in general and to individual workers in particular.

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THE Council of the Geological Society has this year awarded its annual Medals and Funds as follows: The Wollaston Medal to Professor Baron G. J. de Geer, of Stockholm, whose work is so well known to all geologists, and especially to glacialists, as to need no further reference here; the Murchison Medal to Mrs. Shakespear, formerly Miss E. M. Wood, the collaborator with Miss G. L. Elles in their great work on graptolites and the author of many papers on Palæozoic stratigraphy; the Lyell Medal to Mr. E. Greenly, whose long awaited memoir on Anglesey we hope will soon see the light; the Wollaston Fund to Captain W. B. R. King, late of the Geological Survey and now Assistant to the Woodwardian Professor at Cambridge, whose geological work on the Western front has lately been mentioned in our pages; the Murchison Fund to Dr. D. Woolacott, a recent and valued contributor to this Magazine, who has specialized on the geology of North-Eastern England; while the Lyell Fund is divided between Dr. J. D. Falconer and Mr. E. S. Pinfold, who have in recent years been working in Nigeria and India respectively.

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At a recent sitting of the Non-Ferrous Mining Committee of the Board of Trade some interesting evidence was given with regard to the present position and prospects of lead and zinc mining in the Halkyn district of Flintshire. Most of the mines in the district have now been worked almost down to the level of the existing drainage tunnel, and working below this is obviously impossible, owing to the great volumes of water running through the Carboniferous Limestone, as the writer can testify from recent experience underground in that region. A large scheme is on foot for a drainage tunnel at or near sea-level, which would unwater a considerable additional depth of rich veins. Such an undertaking is as a rule too large for any single company to tackle successfully, but there seems to be no possible doubt that judicious co-operation assisted by a subsidy from public funds would result in great developments in this district, where the veins are undoubtedly very rich and mining in the past has been very successful. The recent rise in the price of the metals concerned foreshadows a promising future for this interesting area, if the difficulties alluded to above can be successfully overcome, and there seems to be every possible reason why a

far-sighted and public-spirited policy should here be put into action. It seems possible that the great resources of underground water in Flintshire might even be profitably utilized for the generation of electric power to supply the rapidly growing industrial districts along the estuary of the Dee, and so assist to conserve the coal resources of that part of the country.

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At a special meeting of the Council of the Mineralogical Society on January 20 it was resolved to commence immediately the publication of a series of Mineralogical Abstracts. These will be issued as a separately paged appendix with future numbers of the *Mineralogical Magazine*, which it is hoped will be published at more frequent intervals. It is also proposed to place the Abstracts on sale separately. The name of the author, full title, as in the original, and an intelligible reference will be quoted, thus serving at the same time as a bibliography or catalogue of scientific papers and books, which will be fully indexed. The Abstracts themselves will be brief (200–250 words), though giving as much detail of original matter as possible, but in the case of longer papers and books no more than the nature of the contents can be indicated. It is hoped to include not only all papers and books dealing with purely scientific mineralogy and crystallography, but also to call attention to matters of mineralogical interest in original papers bearing more on petrology, ore-deposits, and economics. The Mineralogical Society being only a small society, the work of abstracting must be carried on by voluntary helpers. It is proposed to allot groups to workers interested in different branches, and to collect their abstracts in batches under suitable headings, e.g. New Minerals, Crystal-structure and X-rays, Optical Methods in Crystallography, Rock-forming Minerals, Meteorites, Ore-deposits, etc. Anybody willing to co-operate in this work, or desirous of joining the Society, will be welcomed. Authors can assist in the search for material suitable for abstraction by sending reprints of their papers to the editor, L. J. Spencer, Natural History Museum, S.W. 7.

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THE Council of the Geological Society of London has made the following recommendations for the election of officers for the ensuing year: President, Mr. R. D. Oldham; Vice-Presidents, Professor E. J. Garwood, Mr. G. W. Lamplugh, Col. H. G. Lyons, and Professor J. E. Marr. No changes are proposed in the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The following members of the Council retire: Sir J. Cadman, Dr. C. W. Andrews, Dr. G. Hickling, Sir J. J. H. Teall, and Mr. S. H. Warren. The following are recommended for election as ordinary members of the Council: Professor W. S. Boulton, Professor O. T. Jones, Mr. R. G. Carruthers, Capt. W. B. R. King, and Lieut.-Col. W. Campbell Smith.