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NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

All communications for the Editor of the "Geological Magazine" should be addressed to R. H. Rastall, Esq., M.A., F.G.S., Christ's College, Cambridge. Letters for Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S., to be sent to Tudor Cottage, Clay Hill, Bushey, Herts. Books and parcels, especially from abroad, may be directed to the care of the Publishers, Messrs. Dulau & Co., 34-36 Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

OWING to the release of many geologists and Government workers and the demobilization of old contributors, besides the addition of numerous new ones, we have received, during the past few months, a very large number of important and interesting articles, many of them on subjects of immediate topical interest, and therefore necessitating early publication, and several also needing plates and text-figures for their illustration. Some of our friends have kindly come forward and contributed towards the cost of these necessary but expensive additions to their articles, but owing to the present high prices it is not possible to meet all the requirements of authors in this respect and cover the cost of production with our present circulation. The GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE is not *primarily* a money-making proposition, nevertheless it is necessary to its continuance that it should at least cover its expenses, and obviously the more copies sold the better value can be given in return. Therefore it behoves our friends, the readers and well-wishers, to use every effort in their power to secure among their associates new subscribers and increase its circulation, which is as essential to the life of a periodical as to that of a living organism.

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A VACANCY having arisen in the body of the Trustees of "The Percy Sladen Memorial Fund" by the retirement, after five years of office, of Sir John Rose Bradford, F.R.S., the Trustees requested the President and Council of the Linnean Society to nominate a successor to the Trust; and they have, in compliance, chosen Dr. Arthur Smith Woodward, F.R.S., President of the Linnean Society, to fill the vacancy for the term of five years.

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THE late Dr. S. P. Woodward recorded in his notebook, 1864: "The collection of the late Dr. John Woodward, the founder of the Chair of Geology in Cambridge, originally was kept locked, and a bond for several thousand pounds was given by the Professor for the security of the specimens. Two auditors were appointed yearly by the University to go over the whole collection and compare it with the official catalogue to ascertain the safety of the specimens, and to report to the Vice-Chancellor, who entertained them and the Professor at dinner. The dinner was paid for out of the Woodwardian fund, and the guests were required by the will to drink *burgundy*. The collection consists of about 10,000 specimens, chiefly British fossils. By Woodward's will the Professor must be a *bachelor* and a graduate of the University. The salary was £100, with a further sum for the audit and dinner. The University has lately raised the Professor's salary to £300." It is hardly necessary to add that this salary is now calculated on a more modern and generous basis.

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A HIGHLY successful dinner, in honour of those members of the Geological Survey and Museum Staff who have served with His Majesty's Forces, was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on the night of April 30, with Sir Aubrey Strahan in the chair. Forty-eight present and past members attended; of this number twenty have seen active service in one capacity or another. It is to be regretted that distance or other circumstances prevented any of the nine service members of the Edinburgh staff from being fêted also by their colleagues.

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MR. HAROLD Cox's pamphlet, *The Coal Industry: Dangers of Nationalisation* (Longmans, Green & Co., 1919, price 6d.), should be read by everyone, since there is not a single individual in this country unaffected by the present enormous increase in the price of coal. This rise in price is to a very large extent due to the spread among the miners of ideas based upon unsound premises. Mr. Harold Cox exposes very clearly the fallacies underlying the arguments put forward by the Fabian Society and various miners' organizations deriving their ideas from that source, in favour of nationalization and bureaucratic control, and abolition of royalties. These arguments are shown to be in their way triumphs of irrelevancy and middle-class theorizing founded on out-of-date statistics and applied to problems affecting mainly the relations of capital and labour. It is impossible here to quote these points in detail, but the author's comparison with the Post Office and his remarks on Government departments in general are well worth reading. It is categorically stated in a Fabian pamphlet on nationalization that the State would be able to supply coal at £1 per ton delivered to the cellar. In view of recent developments, largely due to State interference, this makes somewhat ironical reading. With regard to royalties, it is shown that with the present scale of taxation, the State already gets back more than half the total, and

that confiscation of royalties would be not only a breach of faith with those who have acquired a legal right in them, but also an economic blunder, as in countries where minerals are in theory national property the State does not appear to get as much as it does in Great Britain; and after all the total amount of royalties is but small in comparison with the actual value of the mineral output of this country.

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At a Special General Meeting, held on June 25 last, the Geological Society of London decided to raise the annual contribution of Fellows elected after November 1, 1919, to three guineas per annum. This step was rendered inevitable by the enormous increase in expenses of all kinds, and especially by the greatly enhanced cost of publication of the Quarterly Journal and other literature issued by the Society. This is undoubtedly one of the most important functions of the Society, and some sacrifice is necessary on the part of geologists if its usefulness in this respect is not to be impaired. The cost of publication must in any case necessarily be very heavy in the immediate future, as a good deal of leeway still has to be made up in the Quarterly Journal and the index of current literature, and it remains to be seen whether the step already taken is sufficiently drastic. At the same meeting it was decided to adhere to the present hour for meetings, 5.30 p.m. This decision will rejoice the hearts of all those Fellows who live within a couple of hours or so of London. At the present time, it is no small undertaking to spend a night in town, owing to shortage of hotel accommodation. Residents within 70 or 80 miles of London can usually return home after an afternoon meeting, whereas an evening meeting makes this impossible. Those coming from further afield must in any case stay in town, hence the present arrangement possesses many advantages and does no harm to any one. It has the additional good feature of making a shorter day for the permanent officials, whose hours on meeting-days, under the old arrangement, were unreasonably long.

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A FINE collection of minerals of economic value was lately exhibited in London, on behalf of the Government of one of the Dominions. Even more interesting than the specimens themselves was the knowledge of mineralogy displayed by the officials responsible for the preparation of the explanatory labels. The following are some specially illuminating examples culled from this source:—*Apatite Sugar*: Mineral sugar is a poisonous salt. *Manganite*: A mineral occurring in crystals. *Molybdenite*: A soft mineral containing a great deal of sulphur, often known as “amber mica”. *Galena*: A lead ore, formed by the action of sulphur on a non-metallic element. *Pyrrholite*: Name means “fire-light stone”, another variety of serpentine. *Ilmenite*: Taken from Ilmen Hills. Composed of tartaric acids and oxides of iron. *Sphalerite*: Name comes from word meaning treacherous. Better known as “blende”, which comes from a word meaning to dazzle—a sulphide of arsenic.