

THE
GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE

VOLUME LVIII.

No. IV.—APRIL, 1921.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

OWING to the incidence of the Easter holidays in the last week of March, we are obliged this month to go to press at an unusually early date. Consequently one or two items which should normally have been included in this number are unavoidably postponed. For this we wish to express our regrets.

* * * *

THE list of fifteen candidates nominated by the Council for election to the Royal Society, published just too late to be mentioned in our March number, includes the name of only one geologist, Mr. C. S. Middlemiss, C.I.E., late of the Geological Survey of India and now Superintendent of the Mineral Survey of Kashmir. To him we tender our hearty congratulations. It will be remembered that last year no geologist received the honour of election. There is a widespread feeling that the state of affairs with regard to the number of candidates now awaiting election is in need of careful consideration by the Council of the Royal Society. In the list issued last February there are 118 names, belonging to nearly thirty distinct categories. Of these the largest number (23) belong to the medical profession; 20 to the chemists, 10 to the electrical and civil engineers, 10 to the geologists, 10 are botanists, 8 zoologists, 7 mathematicians, 7 physiologists, 2 mineralogists, 4 naval architects, 3 entomologists, and about 12 of unique scientists (including one veterinary surgeon). Many of these have been suspended for three or four years, and as only fifteen are elected annually, a large proportion stand very little chance of admission within a reasonable time, if ever. Whether the enormous importance attached by the scientific world to the Fellowship of the Royal Society is ultimately to the benefit of science in general is a matter that we do not propose to discuss; the fact remains that it is the heart's desire of all scientific men, and we would respectfully suggest to the Council that the time has now arrived when they might well consider the possibility of a substantial addition to the number of annual elections. Far be it from us to advocate any lowering of the standard; our point is that the number of those fully qualified has of late increased so greatly that many men as good as or even better than those elected a few years ago are now perforce left out in the cold, to the great discouragement of themselves and of the coming generation who have not yet reached the stage of candidature. In our opinion the Fellowship of the Royal Society should be regarded as an encouragement to future effort, as well as a reward for meritorious work in the past.