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EDITORIAL NOTES.

GEOLOGISTS will note with satisfaction that the University of Cambridge on May 19 conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on the Abbé Henri Breuil, Professor of the Institute of Human Palæontology at Paris. The following speech was delivered by the Public Orator in presenting the Abbé for his degree: "De gentis humanæ originibus multi antiquitus disputaverunt nec adhuc compositæ sunt controversiæ. Utrum simiis oriundi simus an angelis, ingens fuit rixa. Ossibus nonnullis inventis pithecanthropum quidam finxerunt,

monstrum horrendum, informe, ingens,

cui lumen non datum. Ex contrario hospes noster cavernas speluncasque Gallicas et Hispanas exploravit, proavorum domos nostrorum et picturis plenas invenit, ex quibus patefactum est ante multa annorum millia vel humanissimos fuisse. Ita linea usi sunt et colore, ita vitæ studuerunt, ut cervi depicti vel animum cerneret, dum respectat inhians, et crura movet defatigata. Elephanti primigenii dentes et capillos, equi nasum retusum, rhinocerotis lanam, et noverunt et pinxerunt. Abbatem ergo, qui gentem nostram in humanitatem vindicaverit, laeti salutamus.

"Duco ad vos virum admodum reverendum HENRICUM EDWARDUM PROSPERUM BREUIL."

We hear that Abbé Breuil has spent several weeks in visiting the more interesting British localities that have furnished information concerning prehistoric man, and we hope that he may publish an account of his observations in our Islands.

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On February 20, 1920, Mr. R. Bullen Newton retired from the post of Assistant in the Geological Department of the British Museum, after forty years' service. For twelve years, from 1868 to 1880, Mr. Newton was Assistant Naturalist on the Geological Survey, and in the latter year, owing to special qualifications in the curating of fossils, he was transferred to the British Museum as an Assistant in the Geological Department, then under the keepership of Dr. Henry Woodward. He has therefore completed a period of fifty-two years spent in palæontological work. Owing to pressure

on our space it is not possible at the moment to give an adequate account of his distinguished career, but we intend to do so at an early date. It must suffice here to say that he has accomplished an enormous amount of sterling work, a full bibliography of his publications, including joint work, running to no less than ninety-five items, and covering investigations in the palæontology of almost all regions of the world where fossils are found. Mr. Bullen Newton has also occupied the positions of President of the Malacological Society of London (1910-12), and of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland (1913-15), and his special interests have always lain in the direction of the Tertiary and younger formations.

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WE have received a copy of the Third Annual Report of the Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies, covering its activities for the year 1919. Several of the Committees deal with matters possessing geological interest, such as those on Iron-ores and the Water Power of the Empire. A Committee formed jointly by this Board and the British Association has entered into negotiations with the University of Cambridge and the Imperial College as to the possibility of obtaining funds for the establishment of a Geophysical Institute. The most interesting report, however, is that of the Petrophysical Institute Committee, of which Sir Jethro Teall is chairman and Professor Fearnside's secretary. A full report has been drawn up on the need for a national institute to investigate the conditions of crystallization of minerals and rocks, and advice has been obtained from the Geophysical Institute and the Carnegie Institution at Washington. The Committee is now prepared to approach the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research with a view to the organization of a Petrophysical Institute.

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THE twelfth annual report of the governing body of the Imperial College of Science and Technology contains much matter of interest, especially a full account of the work of the Department of Geology, including Mining Geology and Oil Technology, and of the Department of Mining. As is the case everywhere at present there was much overcrowding, and some intending students in Mining Geology had to be excluded owing to lack of equipment. It is impossible in the space at our disposal to mention even a small part of the important work of teaching and research which is being carried on at this great college; its activities cover almost every possible field of learning and technology to which geology can be applied, and we can only congratulate Professor Watts, Professor Cullis, and their staff on the brilliant results attained. It is pleasing to observe that a large proportion of the original papers published during the year by members of the various branches of the Department of Geology appeared in the pages of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*.