

Then follows a chapter on three types of soil-forming processes : podsolization ; calcification ; laterization ; and tropical weathering. The first of these is defined as the normal type in temperate, humid climates with forest vegetation. In the United States it occurs in the region with an annual rainfall of 22 to 28 inches : in Britain this would be considered as on the dry side, rather than specially humid. In the drier regions to the west calcification is characteristic and results in the formation in the subsoil of a calcareous layer, which the author proposes to call *caliche*. This word, however, is more commonly associated with nitrate of soda in S. America, and its use here seems undesirable. All this seems to be related to kunkar and surface limestones in other lands. Weathering in really arid regions is not discussed.

It is emphasized, with justification, that the literature of laterite is in a dreadful muddle, both as to definitions, nomenclature, and theories of formation. It is sad to find some doubt cast by recent workers on the validity of Sir John Harrison's work on laterite in British Guiana, on the ground that the rocks so carefully compared were not initially identical. To an impartial spectator it really seems as if laterite can be formed from anything anywhere, in more or less hot climates. It is obvious that we need to know a lot more about geology in the broadest sense in the tropics.

ERRATA

PERIODICAL EVENTS IN THE NORTH SEA BASIN

We regret that a number of errors appeared in the article under the above heading by Dr. J. H. F. Umbgrove, in the November–December issue of the *Magazine* for 1945 (lxxxii, 237–244), and at Dr. Umbgrove's request we publish this list of errata :—

p. 238, Table B. Neogene of Indragiri, Sumatra, etc. ; column 2. Duration in million years (approx.), *for 60 read 30*.

Tertiary of Pasir, Koetei, Borneo ; column 3. Maximum thickness in metres, *for 1,500 read 15,000*.

p. 239, Table C, column 5. Blank sub-heading, *insert* In northern part of Atlantic Ocean.

Red deep-sea clay ; column 3. In tropical, equatorial part of Atlantic Ocean, *for — read 0·086*.

p. 240, Table D. Title, *delete* compare Text-figs. 5 and 6.

Table E. Sub-hercynian epoch ; column 4. Some examples in neighbouring areas, *for* overthrusting of Osning (c_4) *read* overthrusting of Osning (c_8).

At base of table, beneath lowest line, *insert* Saalian epoch.
