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EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE regret to announce the death of Professor Charles Lapworth, in his 78th year. Few geologists have exerted a more profound influence upon the progress of our science. His labours among the older rocks are a witness to his genius. He founded a Geological School of the first rank in the University of Birmingham, but the influence of his teaching was by no means confined to the students of that University. Many prominent geologists at home and abroad must be proud to regard themselves as his pupils. By his application of geology to various matters of economic importance he made it abundantly clear to men of business that this science was of great practical utility. His books are marked by high originality as regards both treatment and subject-matter. He was a man of singular charm, and greatly loved by all who knew him. A life of Professor Lapworth appeared in this Magazine in 1901 as one of our "Eminent Living Geologists". We hope shortly to give an appreciation of his life and work.

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OUR readers will doubtless notice the disappearance from this number of a familiar feature, namely the abstracts of papers read to the Geological Society of London. For the last few months, owing to a large influx of original papers, reviews, and correspondence, it has been difficult to afford the requisite space, and publication has often been considerably delayed. It may be taken for granted that the great majority of our readers receive these abstracts together with the discussions, which we do not reproduce, direct from the Society in due course. The abstracts have to be entirely reset in type, and it is considered that the cost of this would be better bestowed on original articles and on reviews. It is intended, however, to continue the publication of abstracts of papers read at the meetings of other societies of smaller membership, and even to enlarge this feature by the inclusion of brief summaries of papers of geological interest read to societies which are not purely geological in their scope, such as, for example, the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy. The Editors will be very glad to receive from Secretaries of local societies or from authors *short* abstracts of papers considered suitable for this section of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.

In the list of those recommended by the Council for election to the Royal Society we are glad to see the name of Dr. Robert Broom, of Griquatown, South Africa. The importance of Dr. Broom's work in anatomy and zoology is generally recognized, both in its bearings on the evolution of the higher vertebrates and in its relations to the study of South African stratigraphy. Dr. F. H. A. Marshall also, though pre-eminently a physiologist and agriculturalist, has taken much interest in the geological history of the vertebrates, and in particular of the domesticated animals, on which he has published some interesting details. But with these exceptions the list is, frankly, very disappointing. It does not contain the name of any geologist or of any representative of the allied sciences of mineralogy and geography. This is very discouraging to the workers in all these branches, now so numerous, and if this policy continues a deadlock will soon be reached, so that many eminent geologists, mineralogists, and geographers who have reached the meridian of life will see their chances of election indefinitely postponed, while for the younger generation the outlook is unpromising.

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VERY different is the complexion of the similar list issued by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. This includes the names of no less than four geologists, namely Mr. E. M. Anderson, Mr. E. B. Bailey, Mr. R. G. Carruthers, all members of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, and Mr. W. R. Smellie, geologist on the staff of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Some of these gentlemen are valued contributors to our pages, and we are glad to avail ourselves of this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the support and encouragement that we have received from Scottish geologists, and especially from Mr. Bailey, during the recent crisis in the affairs of the Magazine.

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CAPTAIN W. B. R. KING, O.B.E., M.A., F.G.S., of Jesus College, Cambridge, formerly of H.M. Geological Survey, and now Assistant to the Woodwardian Professor, has been elected to a Fellowship at Jesus College. We have already had occasion to refer more than once to the brilliant work carried out by Captain King as geologist on the Western Front, and we congratulate him heartily on this further distinction added by his college to his well-deserved honours.

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THE Geological Society of London and the Mineralogical Society have set up a joint committee of twelve petrologists "to consider whether any standardization of British petrographic nomenclature is possible and desirable, and if so, to make recommendations with that end in view". The following six members were nominated by the Geological Society: Dr. J. S. Flett, Mr. A. Harker, Sir J. J. Harris Teall, Dr. H. H. Thomas, Mr. G. W. Tyrrell, and Professor

W. W. Watts. The nominations of the Mineralogical Society are as follows: Dr. J. W. Evans, Dr. F. H. Hatch, Dr. A. Holmes, Dr. G. T. Prior, Mr. R. H. Rastall, Mr. W. Campbell Smith. It is not yet known whether all the above nominees are willing to serve on the Committee. The first meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30 p.m. on March 16, when a preliminary discussion took place and certain resolutions were drawn up for consideration at the next meeting.

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WE have been privileged to see a copy of a very interesting Report of a Commission appointed to examine the condition of the iron and steel works in Lorraine, in the occupied areas of Germany, in Belgium, and in France. Although the Report is in the main concerned with technical engineering details of the practice in the great iron and steel works of these areas, nevertheless there are to be found here and there items of information of geological interest, chiefly referring to the iron-ores of Lorraine and the coal of the Saar Basin. It is obvious that the terms of the Peace Treaty must have an enormous effect on the future of the iron and steel industries of both France and Germany. Before the War the iron-ore resources of France and Germany were estimated at 3,300,000,000 tons and 3,600,000,000 tons, or approximately equal. The relative positions at present are about 5,500,000,000 tons and 1,300,000,000 tons respectively. Thus France has now more than four times as much iron-ore as Germany, and it is expected that in the near future her annual production will rise to 42,000,000 tons, or double what it was before the War, and nearly three times as much as the British output. But at present the development of the industry is held up by the impossibility of obtaining from Germany the regular supply of Westphalian coal stipulated for in the Treaty. Saar coal alone is not satisfactory for blast-furnace coke, and requires an admixture of at least 25 per cent of Westphalian or British coking coal. The French ironmasters desire to establish a reciprocal trade with this country, exchanging Lorraine basic pig-iron for British coke, but the transport difficulty stands in the way. This may perhaps eventually be met by a system of canals. The scheme most favoured is that known as the "Canalization of the Moselle" from Thionville to Coblenz, with free navigation of the Rhine to Rotterdam, or canal from the Rhine to Antwerp. An alternative plan is for a canal from Dunkirk to the Briey ironfield. It is considered that this scheme would cause inconvenience in cutting through the thickly populated industrial districts of Northern France, and the cost would be enormous.
