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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE senior Editor, Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S., who founded the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE in 1864, completed his 88th year on November 24, 1920, and is still enjoying good health and taking a warm interest in the Magazine. He played an active part in the preparation of the present issue, No. 678, the concluding number of the 57th volume.

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WE learn that the following promotions have been made in the Geological Survey: Mr. J. Allen Howe and Dr. Walcot Gibson to be Assistants to the Director, the former in London and the latter in Edinburgh: Mr. Henry Dewey and Mr. Bernard Smith to be District Geologists. We hope to give at an early date further particulars as to future developments of the work of the Survey.

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MR. C. P. CHATWIN, F.R.M.S., who so ably filled the office of Librarian at the Geological Society, Burlington House, and was made Demonstrator in Geology at the University of Liverpool in 1919, under Professor P. G. H. Boswell, has, we learn, just been appointed Assistant Palæontologist to the Geological Survey at the Jermyn Street Museum under Dr. F. L. Kitchin, M.A., F.G.S.

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ABOUT three hundred Upper Tertiary and Recent Gasteropods—labelled by the donor in illustration of his monograph published by the Palæontographical Society on the "Pliocene Mollusca of Great Britain" (vol. i)—have been presented to the Geological Department of the British Museum (Natural History) by F. W. Harmer, Esq., M.A., F.G.S.

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By the death of Dr. Allen Sturge, M.V.O., March 27, 1919, the Department of British Mediaeval Antiquities in the British Museum, Bloomsbury, received the finest private collection of stone implements in existence. When packed, the collection, including the exhibition and storage cases that formed part of the bequest, weighed about 25 tons, and was conveyed by road from Icklingham Hall, Suffolk, to London during the summer.

The north-west angle of Suffolk is abundantly represented by specimens excavated from clay and gravel or more frequently

picked up on the surface, to a large extent by Dr. and Mrs. Sturge; and the series from Warren Hill, High Lodge, and Elveden are of the highest importance. Hundreds of Drift implements come from gravel pits in the Thames valley near Dawley (Hayes, Middlesex), and quantities from other well-known sites, such as Swanscombe, Farnham, Dunbridge, Southampton, Savernake Forest, Bedford, and Broom. A large quantity had been acquired from Mr. Worthington Smith, mostly found in north-east London; and other collections made by Canon Greenwell and Messrs Greenhill, Allen Brown, Simeon Fenton, Robert Elliot, and Thomas Bateman were incorporated.

The foreign section is also very rich, the entire contents of many French caves having been obtained from M. Reverdi. Chief among such specimens is a Solutré blade from the hoard found at Volgu in the Dépt.-Saône-et-Loire; and the French Drift and Neolithic series are well selected. Scandinavia, Western and Southern Europe are adequately represented, and there is a large collection from the Swiss lake-dwellings. An ample Egyptian series contains some of the best flint work known, and there are hundreds of excellent examples from America, South and East Africa, and Madras.¹

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WE have received a copy of the first number of a new periodical, *The Mining Electrical Engineer*, which is to be the official journal of the Association of Mining Electrical Engineers; this body has now had a useful existence of eleven years, and it has naturally felt the need of a definite organ of opinion, to place before the world a record of the work done by the Association, and to collect information as to the general progress of electrical engineering as applied to mines. The contents of this number are naturally mainly of a technical nature, and there is not very much bearing on geological questions. Nevertheless, the connexion between mining and geology is so close that we welcome this addition to the literature of the subject. The general get-up of the journal, which is profusely illustrated, is excellent, and we wish it a successful career.

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AT last the Geological Society of London (following the earlier example of the Geologists' Association) have resolved to expend a sum of £500 from the invested funds of the Society to provide the means necessary to carry on scientific publications, and a special general meeting will be held on December 1, 1920, at 5.15 p.m., in order to obtain sanction to carry out this object. Having regard to the great increase in the cost of printing and paper since the War, no Fellow of the Society can doubt the wisdom of this recommendation of the Council. In addition to the

¹ A summary description in French of the whole collection was printed for the meeting of the International Congress of Anthropology and Prehistoric Archæology which met at Monaco in 1906.

above proposed provision of funds, Fellows are reminded that, after the completion of vol. lxxvi (1920), they will not be entitled to receive the Quarterly Journal regularly unless a subscription at the rate of 10s. per volume is paid in advance, along with their annual contribution to the Society. Those Fellows who do not require the complete series can obtain separate parts at the price of 3s. each, if applied for within one year of the date of issue.

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WE have been informed that a proposition is on foot—between the Trustees of the British Museum and the Treasury—to revise the present scale of salaries for assistants now entering the British Museum so as to render them more in accordance with those in other branches of the public service and remove the difficulty which at present prevents many able men, with University training, from offering themselves as candidates for vacancies now actually existing in the staff of the Natural History Branch. We trust that, in addition to a *larger initial salary* about to be offered to *new men* who may apply for these vacant posts, the salaries of those older men now upon the staff will *also be increased* so as to render them more in accordance with the changed circumstances of living in 1920–1, from which *all persons with fixed pre-War incomes* are suffering mostly without hope of relief.

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THE ninety-seventh annual report of the Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society contains, among other matter of local interest, an excellent article by Mr. J. T. Sewell, entitled “Notes on the Geology of Whitby Sands”. The rapid erosion of the boulder-clay cliffs west of Whitby is known to many, and even the writer of the present note, in the course of a not very long life, has witnessed some remarkable changes. But the variations that have taken place on the beach are perhaps of equal interest, and much more difficult to detect. Mr. Sewell has made minute and detailed observations on the spot for thirty years, recording any exposure of rock due to temporary removal of the sand and gravel by tides, waves, and currents, especially during storms, and he has thus accumulated an unrivalled acquaintance with the details of this particular stretch of foreshore. Some useful information was also acquired during the building of the pier extensions. The results are presented in a couple of large-scale maps, 12 inches to the mile, which show, among other things, that both piers rest on Lias shale. It is also very interesting to find that Mr. Sewell’s observations lead him, with apparently good grounds, to doubt the existence of any fault in Whitby Harbour. This paper is an excellent example of the way in which the long-continued and careful observations of a geologist living on the spot may serve to correct the hasty generalizations of those not possessing the local knowledge so necessary in work of this sort.