

EDITORIAL

Since its inception early in 1964, the East Midlands Geological Society has grown steadily and surely: individual membership is now around 180 and there are, in addition, some 60 institutional members. Attendances at indoor meetings have ranged from 50 to over 100 and at excursions from 25 to over 80. The need for our society has therefore been emphatically demonstrated.

The area included within the Society's title and interest is a large one. Originally formed in Nottingham, the Society was never, from its inception, conceived of as a purely Nottinghamshire body. Indoor meetings have since been held, or are to be held shortly, in Loughborough, Newark, Matlock and Derby; it is hoped to hold future indoor meetings even farther afield - in Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. Nonetheless, it is impossible to maintain an equal intensity of activity in all these regions; thus the organisation of local groups within the Society is planned, in the hope that such groups will arrange activities supplementary to those of the main Society. In addition, local geological and natural history societies are to be offered affiliation with the E.M.G.S. - not with a view to absorbing such Societies, an idea quite contrary to the aims of our own Society, but with a view to the furtherance of interest in geology by means of joint activities and mutual publicity.

"The Mercian Geologist", as its official organ, plays an important part in the life of the East Midlands Geological Society, not only by chronicling its activities but also as a stimulus for research and the recording of geological information. As its title indicates, the coverage of this journal is visualised as the whole of the Midlands area; in the present issue, for the first time, we have the pleasure of including articles on West Midlands geology. Review articles on topics of general geological interest are also welcomed.

It was anticipated, when the journal was first planned, that initial difficulty would be encountered in securing sufficient copy. No such problem has in fact arisen; the readiness with which each issue has been filled has shown how great was the need for a journal of this kind. "The Mercian Geologist" now has a world-wide readership, copies travelling to all Continents and most countries. It is especially pleasing that the authors of papers, in several instances, have been amateurs; we trust that this will continue to be the case in all future issues. The Editorial Board would like to emphasize its willingness to consider for publication articles from all sources, within or outside the Society, and to help and advise in the preparation of manuscripts to any degree that may be necessary. Articles should be addressed to The Editor; typescripts are preferable, albeit not essential, and format should follow, as closely as possible, that adopted in previous issues.

Production of "The Mercian Geologist" has necessarily involved assistance from many sides. I would like to thank all members of the Editorial Board for their considerable assistance; in particular Mr. Hanford, who functions as artist to the Society by redrawing or relettering text-figures where necessary, and Dr. Taylor, who has throughout been my righthand man and whose services to the journal have been too numerous even to list. The work of our panel of referees, necessarily anonymous, is gratefully acknowledged, as are the services in photography of Mr. John Eyett. Finally, the work of all our authors must be mentioned; without them, there could be no journal! It has been an especial pleasure to include an article by Emeritus Professor Henry H. Swinnerton, the Society's first Honorary Member, whose work in the popularisation of geology and in research on Midlands geology will be well-known to all interested in the science.

In 1966, the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be meeting in Nottingham. The Society looks forward to playing as full as possible a part in the meetings. It is a pleasure to note that Dr. Taylor has been appointed Local Secretary for Section C (Geology) and has contributed the geological section for the "Handbook".

William A. S. Sarjeant