

EDITORIAL

1966 is an important year in the history of Midlands geology, in that it sees a meeting of the British Association in Nottingham, between 31st August and 6th September. This means many things. First of all, a handbook will be published, "A survey of the Nottingham region"; this will contain accounts of the geology of the area by Dr. F.M. Taylor, and of the geography, including a summary account of Peak District lead mining by Dr. Joan Fuller. Secondly, there will be a geological exhibition in the Department of Geology, Nottingham University, which will include a display by the East Midlands Geological Society. At the same time, our Society is putting on a display in the windows of the District Bank, South Parade, Nottingham. Finally, Section C (Geology) will be holding a series of lectures daily in the Chemistry Department of Nottingham University, together with excursions to the principal geological localities of the region.

Members of the East Midlands Geological Society will therefore find it very worthwhile to become individual Members of the British Association, which will entitle them to attend the meetings of Section C and to receive the handbook: preliminary programmes for the meeting are available from The British Association for the Advancement of Science, 3 Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1.

Another event of considerable interest is the fourth meeting of the South Pennines Geological Conference, provisionally planned to be held in the Department of Geology, University of Keele, from 2nd to 4th January, 1967. This Conference was created to provide a forum for geologists (academic, industrial, or amateur) interested in rocks of all types within the area loosely defined as the Southern Pennines - southern Yorkshire and Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. A conjoint aim is to aid research by the pooling of information on geological projects currently in hand, to aid collaboration and avoid duplication of effort. Meetings have hitherto been held at Keele (1962 and 1964) and Nottingham (1965): they have been notable for their informal atmosphere and for the diversity and interest of the papers presented.

Anyone wishing to join the Conference should write to Dr. B.K. Holdsworth, Department of Geology, University of Keele, if possible giving brief details of geological interests. There is no subscription, but a stamped addressed foolscap envelope should be enclosed, which will be returned containing a copy of the Conference Register and a list of recent publications on South Pennines geology. Offers of papers and demonstrations for the forthcoming meeting will be welcomed.

This number completes Volume One of the "Mercian Geologist". An index to the volume is included; this was prepared by Mrs. D.M. Morrow and Mr. L.M. Willies, to whom the Editor would like to express his thanks. Arrangements for binding at a special rate have been agreed with Messrs. Derry & Sons, Canal Street, Nottingham; binding will be in rexine, whip stitched and with gold-letting on the spine. Details are given on a separate sheet circulated with this number.

The Society has made remarkable progress during its three years of existence. Individual membership now stands at 195; we have 55 Institutional members and 2 affiliated Societies. The last year has seen the institution of an Annual Dinner, the first of which proved most pleasant and successful. Field meetings have had an attendance hovering around the optimum 30; and attendance at indoor meetings has averaged out at an impressive figure of over 80. We have a number of associated or affiliated Societies; recent joint meetings with the Derby Naturalists' Society and Peak District Mines Historical Society have proved most successful. Our journal now has a world-wide circulation and has stimulated the publication of a great deal of new data on Midlands geology; and the organisation of research projects by teams of members should shortly begin to bear fruit.

Nevertheless, a great deal remains to be done. In particular, since the Society has a wide geographic coverage, it is hoped that we shall see the organisation of local groups arranging their own activities, in addition to those of the parent Society. We also hope to stimulate better museum coverage of geology; in many museums in our area, the exhibits are inadequate in quantity and outdated in labelling and presentation, tending to discourage, rather than stimulate, visitors. There are a large number of geological localities which are of great interest; though many are scheduled as Sites of Special Scientific Interest by the Nature Conservancy, a "watchdog" attitude needs to be maintained by the Society to ensure that they are indeed preserved. The Society should give fuller support and publicity to the holding of day-time and evening classes within our sphere of interest; it should organise more informal meetings, such as "brains trusts", member's exhibitions, and museum visits; and it should institute an award of the nature of the projected Shipman Medal, to reward and commemorate geological work of especial merit in the region. Many of these projects are already under active consideration by Council.

Finally, I would like to express my personal thanks to the many who have assisted in the production of the "Mercian Geologist". To Professor W.D. Evans, of Nottingham University, whose active support in many spheres has greatly facilitated our progress; to the Editorial Board, and in particular Dr. F.M. Taylor, for their assistance; to Mr. J. Eyett, for assistance in photography; to those who have assisted in "proof"-checking and in the collation of this most recent issue; to the referees, unavoidably anonymous, who have read and constructively criticised manuscripts; and finally, to the authors of articles and excursion reports, on whose work depends the ultimate value of the "Mercian Geologist".

William Antony S. Sarjeant