

Secretary's Report, August 1969 to February 1970

The following report concerns the second half of the 1969/1970 session. The first half of the year was reported in Vol. 3 No.3 pp. 317-318, of the Mercian Geologist. The two parts of the report make up the complete account of the Society's affairs for the 1969/1970 session.

The excursion programme continued with a visit to gypsum localities in Nottinghamshire at the beginning of September, led by Dr. J.H. James of British Plaster Products, East Leake. In October the second weekend excursion of the season was arranged by Mr. Iain Williamson, who took the Society to Ingleborough and Malham.

October was an extremely busy month for the Society. After the field meeting, the indoor programme commenced the following week with a Brains Trust meeting chaired by Professor the Lord Energlyn, who ably controlled the panel (all volunteers!). At the request of Professor Runcorn, the November meeting was arranged for the 28th October. This proved to be a very popular subject (Continental Drift) and attracted the largest audience for a meeting organised by the E.M.G.S. to date and the location of the meeting had to be switched at the last minute to a larger lecture theatre.

The lack of a November meeting was then avoided by Council inviting Dr. R.S. Suggate, of the New Zealand Geological Survey to lecture on a New Zealand topic. Dr. Suggate, who was conveniently staying in Nottingham at the time gave an illustrated lecture on landforms in New Zealand.

The date of the December meeting was also altered during the year. This meeting, on Rhaetic rocks, was first of all addressed by Dr. Kent who reviewed local Rhaetic deposits and whose paper is published in this issue of the journal. Dr. Kent was ably supported by Mr. J.H. Sykes who gave an account of the work carried out at Barnstone by himself in collaboration with Mr. H.G. Fryer and Mr. J. Cargill. This paper was printed in Vol. 3 No. 3 of the Society's journal.

The Matlock meeting, held as usual in Tawney House, Matlock Green, jointly with the Matlock Field Club and the Peak District Mines Historical Society, was addressed by Dr. F.M. Broadhurst. Dr. Broadhurst's theme was the palaeoecology of Treak Cliff and he took us underground as well as over the ground during his discourse.

Also held in January, on the 6th., the 5th Annual Dinner. This informal gathering was held at the Nottingham University Club and was followed by members showing slides taken on Society field excursions and on other occasions.

It is always difficult to assess the success of a years programme. The number of meetings held, 15, was the largest in the Society's history for one session. The Society started off by holding eleven, one each month except August. The addition of the Annual Dinner provided 12 meetings. The re-arrangement of the programme this year and the addition of $\frac{1}{2}$ -day excursion and a Brains Trust brought the number of meetings to a record level. Attendance at the meetings has been very variable. Day excursions have been fully attended - if one considers that 40 is sufficient for any one leader. Weekend excursions have remained somewhat stubbornly fixed at about 32 - still ample for one leader. Attendance at indoor meetings varied from 134 down to 25. Admittedly the broadcast of a persistent fog warning at about the time most Members would be thinking of turning out may have had an adverse effect on the latter number for the average numbers attending indoor meetings has now crept up to 62. Needless to say the fog did not materialise.

During the year twelve circulars have been published describing the Society's activities and giving news and information. If you have any geological items of interest to other members or if

you have read a good geological book or know of good teaching films on geological subjects please write to the secretary about them so that the word can be spread around. Mrs. M. Owen has continued to produce the circular and provide stationary requirements and other items, including the duplication of the Constitution, saving the Society considerable operational costs and yet providing the Society with a professional service greatly improving the appearance of the Society's circular. My thanks and those of the Society are again extended to Mrs. Owen.

Another way in which costs have been kept to a minimum is through the generosity of Lord Energlyn and the University of Nottingham, who have unfailingly provided facilities for the Society (free of charge) in the Department of Geology, University of Nottingham, not only for meetings but also secretarial assistance and the use of space and equipment for the laboratory work carried out in connection with the Rhaetic project.

Membership of the Society has continued to increase. Figures for the last three years are given below:

	Feb. 1967	1968	1969	1970	69/70 increase
Honorary Members	2	2	2	2	-
Ordinary Members	149	165	188	201	13
Joint Members	32	48	58	76	18
Junior Members	3	6	7	10	3
Institutions	94	102	105	117	12
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	288	323	360	406	46
	—	—	—	—	—
Increase		35	37	46	

It is a pleasure to be able to report these increases as they point to the continued success of the Society. Perhaps the number of Junior Members could still be increased, but it has been found that when prospective Junior Members learn that they will not receive the Journal, they opt for Ordinary Membership. Junior Members are essentially transient. During the year seventeen members (from all classes except Honorary Membership) resigned, or their membership lapsed. Members will recall with deep regret the death of a Founder Member, Miss M.C. Stewart. We were grateful to receive from her sister back copies of the Mercian Geologist. The 17 Members noted above were not included in the interim figure published in the journal, Vol. 3 No. 3 p. 318 which as a result is somewhat inflated.

The Society's first Membership List was issued to Members early in January 1970. The list acknowledges the work carried out by the Society's Officers and all those who have taken an active part in the Society in any way. It is good to see that so many have made a contribution. Please endeavour to get at least one acknowledgement number against your name in time for the next list. In this respect I must apologise to those who have performed onerous duties, including Mr. & Mrs. Speed and to Mr. G. Warrington and no doubt others, who were inadvertently omitted from the list; they are only apparently forgotten.

In compiling this last report as Secretary, I cannot end without expressing my thanks once again to Mrs. D.M. Morrow. She has continued to act as my deputy and Council Meetings have

continued to be held at her house. She has given much encouragement using, I suspect, psychological techniques gained from her every day contact with the younger element. In now asking her to take on full responsibility as secretary, the Society is obviously taking advantage of the 'willing horse'. Please ensure that her efforts and those of the Council are rewarded by attending meetings of the Society regularly, taking part in any other activities advertised from time to time and by enrolling younger people to the Society, thus ensuring the continued success of this enthusiastic Society.

F.M. Taylor.