

Secretary's Report, June - November 1965

In a sense, this report serves also as an Annual Report in that this issue of the "Mercian Geologist" appears a few weeks before our second Annual General Meeting.

The East Midlands Geological Society, in its two years of existence, has made its mark on the world of geology; our membership is national and the circulation of "The Mercian Geologist" is international. This has inevitably meant an increasing burden of administrative and secretarial work; increased postal charges have caused heavy extra demands on our funds, but nonetheless the Society remains financially sound. A recent problem which has been causing difficulty is that the duplicator, used hitherto in the production of circulars, has had to be given up owing to its advanced age. If any member has, or knows of, a duplicator that might be made available to the Society, the Secretary would like to hear of it.

The summer months have brought a varied programme of excursions. Attendance at these meetings was somewhat less high than last year; nonetheless, the excursions remained popular.

Owing to an alteration of dates enforced by accommodation difficulties, the weekend meeting was postponed. The excursion to view the geology of the M. 1. was therefore held earlier, under Dr. Taylor's leadership; this provided an opportunity of examining rock sequences in areas normally not exposed.

The weekend excursion to the Cotswolds, the first such held by our Society, was led by Dr. Hancock. The weather could not have been better had we arranged it ourselves. Members interested in structure and palaeontology found plenty to look at and collect. An unexpected, but welcome, item on the programme was a visit to the Department of Geology of the Teachers' Training College in Cheltenham, where a most pleasant evening was spent.

The excursion in September to view Waterswallows Quarry, Buxton, under the leadership of Dr. F. Moseley, was less fortunate weather-wise. Heavy morning rain failed to prevent us from examining this interesting volcanic complex. The rain cleared in the afternoon for visits to other localities, the party welcoming the opportunity to dry out a little!

Owing to rebuilding currently in progress, the planned October outing, to view the geological collections of the British Museum (Natural History), could not be held. Our indoor session commenced on Saturday, October 30th at Loughborough, with a lecture by Dr. W.A. Cummins entitled "4004 B.C. and All That - Evidence for the antiquity of Man". This was a joint meeting with the Loughborough Naturalist's Society, over 70 people attending.

The second meeting was held at the Regional College of Technology, Nottingham, on Thursday, 11th November. Dr. R.A. Howie, of Kings' College London, lectured on "Gemstones" to an audience over 80 members. The speaker provided an attractive display of gemstone material.

The winter programme includes talks from Dr. F.M. Broadhurst, Dr. T.D. Ford and Professor P.C. Sylvester-Bradley, in addition to the Presidential Address. It is hoped to plan a varied programme for 1966, possibly including a long excursion abroad. We seek to cover all geological interests of our members: the Council are always pleased to receive suggestions for meetings or visits. The past year has seen an increase in our activities and trust this healthy trend will be maintained in the year to come.

R.W. Morrell