

## Secretary's Report, June - November 1966

The East Midlands Geological Society is now almost three years old and, before long, will see the first major change since its foundation. At the Annual General Meeting in February, 1967, a majority of the present Council will retire under the three-year clause in the Constitution of the Society. Looking back, it is clear that, without the hard work put in by members of the Council, who have given freely of their time and talent and have often left their expenses unclaimed, the Society would not have made nearly such a good start. It would be invidious to select any particular member of Council for especial praise, since all have done so much; as Secretary, I can only say how grateful I am for the way in which they have helped to make my job so much easier to carry out.

One person known to all members of the Society, who has already retired from office, and about whom a special word is most certainly due, is our President, Mr. P. C. Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson was our first President and members will not only recall his active support of our meetings and field excursions, some of which he led, but also his two first-rate Presidential Addresses, both of which have been published in the pages of the "Mercian Geologist". Mr. Stevenson has now retired from the Presidency, slightly earlier than the Constitution demands, and, unfortunately for the Society, taken a position with the Tasmanian Geological Survey. Australasia's gain is our loss; however, our Past-President is retaining his links with the Society and is now the first member we have in the Antipodes. We wish him success in his new post. Prior to Mr. Stevenson's departure, Council members entertained him to dinner at the Black Boy Hotel in Nottingham.

The sad news of the death of Professor H. H. Swinnerton, at the age of 91, removed from us one of the leading figures concerned with the geology of the East Midlands. The first Honorary Member of the East Midlands Geological Society, Professor Swinnerton published his last paper "The *Gryphaea* plexus in the Lower Lias of the Vale of Belvoir, Nottinghamshire" in the June, 1965 issue of "The Mercian Geologist". An obituary, written by Professor W. D. Evans, appears in this issue.

The summer excursion programme was once again well supported and, on the whole, the weather left little to complain about. The Society owes a great debt to the various leaders, who put in a great deal of preparatory work in order to give those attending a comprehensive picture of the geology of the area or exposures visited. As each leader also provides a "write up" for "The Mercian Geologist", detailed descriptions by me are unnecessary. Our popular "Cooks" Tour on Sunday, 1st May, led by Mr. P. C. Stevenson, gave a good send off to the programme; this took in the geology south-east of Nottingham. This was the first excursion which has touched the seaside; at least one exposure was visited by negotiating around and across the bodies of sunbathing holidaymakers.

On Sunday June 5th, a large party visited Edale under the leadership of Mr. W. H. Wilcockson, M. A., F. G. S. The excursion called for some fairly long climbs but as far as is known all members arrived back in Nottingham - other than a local Edale cow who made a determined attempt to join the party and was only defeated by a stile. The classic geological area of The Wrekin was visited on July 3rd, under the leadership of Mr. P. H. Speed, F. G. S. The glorious weather allowed us to examine in detail the volcanic rocks of the area and also to dodge some military manouvres, which seemed to consist of trying out radios and the firing of assorted guns.

The British Association meeting was held at Nottingham from August 31st to September 8th. This was the fourth time the Association has visited the city. The interesting series of excursions and meetings organised by Section 'C' (Geology) attracted many members of the Society to the Association, the local Secretary of which was Dr. F. M. Taylor. The Society organised a display at the Geology Exhibition held in conjunction with the Association at the University; this consisted of an exhibit showing the history

and work of the Society. It was split into four sections; the first consisted of historical material, the second related to the excursion programme, the third to the production and publication of "The Mercian Geologist", and the fourth to the three projects undertaken by the Society.

Palaeontology was the dominant feature of the excursion to Dudley on October 2nd, led by Dr. Ian Sutton. Dudley is one of the best-known geological areas in Britain and the source of a mass of interesting fossils, though quarrying operations have removed for good some of the more productive exposures, while others are overgrown. Nevertheless, the bus was far heavier on the return journey.

Sunday, November 6th saw a party of 26 (plus some juveniles) paying a visit to the Geological Museum, London. This excursion was in some ways experimental, in that it was the first made specifically to a museum. On arrival, our party was met by Mr. F.W. Dunning, B.Sc., F.G.S., of the Geological Survey, who showed the members around the collection. That the experiment was a success was established beyond doubt, if the comments made by the party on the return journey are anything to go on. Consideration will be given to a similar visit next year, though to another museum next time.

The inaugural meeting of the winter session took place for the first time outside Nottingham; about sixty people assembled at Newark Museum to hear Dr. M. J. Le Bas, F.G.S., of Leicester University, give an illustrated talk on 'East African Volcanoes'. The number present is a good indication that the policy adopted shortly after the foundation of the Society to organise meetings outside Nottingham was sound. In keeping with this, the future programme will include meetings at Bakewell (in co-operation with the Peak District Mines Historical Society) and at Matlock; it is possible that a meeting will also be held in Peterborough.

The dinner held by the Society last year was so popular that another is to be held in January, 1967; following the dinner, Dr. T.D. Ford is to show slides of his recent visit to the United States. Future meetings will be addressed by Professor W.D. Evans, Dr. W.A.S. Sarjeant, Professor J. Sutton, F.R.S., and Dr. F.M. Taylor. The winter programme will be rounded off with another 'Collectors Evening', an event of proven popularity. Incidentally, perhaps members reading this might note the date of the evening, May 4th at 7.30 p.m., and give some thought to bringing along material for display.

R. W. Morrell