

## Secretary's Report December 1966 - June 1967.

### Introduction

The last Secretary's Report (Mercian Geologist Vol. 2 No. 1 pp. 121-122) reviewed the activities of the Society up to November 1966 and indicated the programme to the completion of the 1966-67 session. This report is concerned with the period from December 1966 to June 1967.

### The Lecture Programme

The December lecture was given by Professor W.D. Evans, speaking on 'Coal'. The speaker reviewed the subject from the geological aspect and then gave an exhilarating account of his own research work on the antibiotic and geochemical aspects of coal. The lecture was enthusiastically received by a large audience.

In January, Dr. F.M. Taylor presented an illustrated talk on corals to a joint meeting of the Society with the Matlock Field Club, at Matlock. After reviewing the subject, the speaker went on to describe in detail corals obtained from the Derbyshire Limestones.

The first Foundation Lecture was delivered to the Society on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting on the 4th February 1967. This lecture was instigated to commemorate the foundation of the Society and it is intended that it should be available as an alternative to the Presidential Address at the February meeting of the Society, either one or the other being given at the discretion of the President. Dr. W.A.S. Sarjeant spoke on 'The Xanthidia - the solving of a palaeontological problem'. Members were not only intrigued with the title but interested throughout in the way the speaker presented his solution. This lecture is published in the present edition of the Mercian Geologist.

Another joint meeting was held on February 25th at Bakewell, this time in conjunction with the Peak District Mines Historical Society. The lecturer was Mr. H.M. Parker, chairman of the P.D.M.H.S. His well illustrated talk was concerned with the old Derbyshire Lead Mines, and was given to the largest audience yet assembled for this type of meeting. It was estimated that 140-150 people were present.

The 1966-67 lecture programme was completed by a talk to members in Nottingham on 'Long term changes in the last 3,000 million years'. The speaker, Professor J. Sutton, F.R.S., talking generally on many aspects of British structural and stratigraphical geology, completely held his audience until the very last moment.

### The Annual Dinner

The second Annual Dinner (January 5th, 1967) was held in the Nottingham University Club and was attended by 32 members and their guests. Dr. T.D. Ford entertained everybody at the close of the evening with a selection from his collection of North American colour slides.

### The Collector's Evening

Now becoming a regular annual event, the Collector's Evening gives all members the chance to show and to talk informally about, specimens they have collected during the previous year or perhaps at some other time. The number of exhibits at this meeting (32) was a record as was the number of people (70) who attended the meeting. It would be invidious to select any one display for particular mention; each one added to the variety of the material on display and to the high quality of the specimens shown. Below is the list of exhibits.

Fauna from the reef limestones of Castleton .  
 Copper and Uranium Ores from the Congo .  
Psephodus magnus (tooth plate) .  
 Fossils from Church Stretton area and Interesting  
     Geological Books .  
 Rocks and Minerals from the Lake District .  
 Fossils from the Dorset Coast .  
 Exhibit on Lunar Geology, arranged by  
 Selected specimens from the Lower Carboniferous of Crich,  
     and other fossils from various horizons .  
 Selected specimens from the collection of  
 Rocks and fossils from Shropshire, and  
     Bore-Hole samples and cores from the Midlands .  
 Rocks and Minerals from Charnwood Forest,  
     Slides from Auvergne and choice Departmental Specimens .  
 Minerals and rocks from Cornwall .  
 Fossils from the Bradbourne - Kniveton area .  
 Problematica (Septarian nodules and others) .  
 Problematica (mineral specimens for identification) .  
 Banket Gold Ore from Ghana .  
 Natural and artificial genstones in settings .  
 Mollusca from a Tuxford peat deposit .  
 Lias fossils from Whitby and elsewhere .  
 Coal Measure fossils .  
 Tektites .  
 Coal Measures bore-hole core showing unusual form of burrows .  
 Palaeogeographical Maps .  
 3rd. Ed., Dictionary of Geology. (Presented to the Society) .  
 Ironstones .  
 Selection of Eocene fossils from the collection of  
 Specimens of Opal .  
 Derbyshire minerals and problematica .

J. Travis.  
 G.A. Thonet.  
 F.A. Collar.  
  
 R.W. Morrell.  
 K. Aldred.  
 Miss. E. Ramsell.  
 Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Naylor.  
  
 M.A. Willcock.  
 H.G. Fryer.  
  
 C.W. Claxton.  
  
 K. Spinks.  
 S. Henley.  
 J.W. Sykes.  
 E. Taylor.  
 Mrs. I. Murray.  
 J.E. Metcalfe.  
 Mrs. M. Taylor.  
 F.M. Taylor.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Hanford.  
 P. Spencer & P. Flinder.  
 G.H. Bonney.  
 R.E. Elliott.  
 L.J. Wills.  
 J. Challinor.  
 C.R. Tasker & H. Key.  
 A.J. Rundle.  
 Mrs. D.M. Morrow.  
 P.H. Speed.

### Society Excursions.

At the time of writing this report, two excursions from the 1967 programme have taken place. These were the General Geological Excursion south and west of Nottingham (May 7th) and the week-end excursion at Whitby (June 9 - 11th). Attendance at the first was less than that on similar tours held previously and possibly the usefulness of this type of excursion is now diminishing. Attendance at the second was higher than on the Cotswold excursion held last year, which was the first week-end excursion held by the Society. 26 Members were taken around the coastal exposures, the special features of which were explained by the leader, Professor J.E. Hemingway. The excursion also travelled through the Cleveland Hills to see glacial features. The opportunity was taken to collect many interesting fossils and conditions were good for photography. For many members, this was a first visit to Whitby, but others had visited the area previously. That they returned eagerly is due not only to the wealth of geology in this area but also to the eminence and acknowledged expertise of the leader.

### Extra-ordinary General Meeting, December 8th, 1966.

This meeting was called by Council in order that two constitutional changes could be considered. The first of these, concerning increased subscriptions had to be agreed before the 1st. February 1967 if it was to be effective for 1967. After discussion, the changes (see below) proposed by Council were agreed. The second change concerned the inclusion in the Constitution of paragraphs concerning the appointment of 'Local Secretaries' to publicise and co-ordinate the activities of the Society in the various areas of the East Midlands. Council decided that it required more time to consider this change and the proposal was therefore withdrawn.

### The Annual General Meeting, 4th February 1967.

A number of Constitutional, Council and administrative changes have occurred during the period reviewed and most of them were concerned with, or resulted from, the Annual General Meeting. The meeting saw the end of the Society's first three years and the Constitution called for a number of changes to be made in the composition of the Council. Mr. P.C. Stevenson, the retiring President had already left for Tasmania and members were pleased to welcome Mr. R.E. Elliott as the 2nd President. There were changes also in the posts of Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. R.W. Morrell and Mr. E. Taylor being succeeded by Dr. F.M. Taylor, and Mr. P.H. Speed respectively.

The success of the Society during its first three years must be credited in a large measure to these retiring officers. For general policy, guidance and occasionally restraint we are indebted to Mr. Stevenson (see also *Mercian Geologist* Vol. 2 No. 1 p. 121); for the running of the Society (and how inadequate that phrase is to describe the multifarious activities of Secretary) Mr. Morrell, and for solvency and financial guidance, Mr. Taylor. The new officers will be pleased to continue the excellent start made by their predecessors.

A number of Council Members also completed their terms of office. These were Dr. T. D. Ford, Mr. P. M. Hanford and Mr. R. J. A. Travis. The thanks of all members must be extended to them. Dr. Ford gave extensively from his experience and with lectures, talks, papers and excursions has already contributed much to Society activities. Mr. Hanford and Mr. Travis were both members of the Editorial Committee of the *Mercian Geologist*, the former handling artistic work, including the design of the first title page, and the latter helping with collating and distribution.

The increase in Council membership, authorised by the A. G. M., meant that the remaining 8 members were joined by 7 new ones, giving quite a new look to the Council at its first assembly on February 24th. (The new Council list faces p. 133 of this journal).

Members of the Society were pleased to elect Mr. J. Challinor and Professor L. J. Wills as Honorary Members.

### Subscriptions.

The 1st of February 1967, the beginning of the Society's year, saw the introduction of the new subscription rates referred to above. This first increase since the Society's inception, was mainly due to increased postal charges and increases in the printing costs of the '*Mercian Geologist*'. Ordinary members have been asked to pay an extra 4/- and Institutional Members an extra 10/-. The price of the journal was raised from 10/6d. to 15/- each copy; a discount is allowed to members and also for multiple purchases. No changes were made to Junior or Joint Membership subscriptions.

### 'The Mercian Geologist'

During the period under review, Vol. 2 No. 1 of the 'Mercian Geologist' has been published (January 1967). The Society's Editor, Dr. W.A.S. Sarjeant has continued to steer the journal through its many passages, some unbelievably difficult, with skill enough to produce the journal at the right time. In this he has been assisted by members of the Editorial Board (which ought to include Mrs. Sarjeant) and a team of hidden workers, the referees and collators. The journal could not be produced without these assistants.

### Project Work.

During the first year or so of the Society's existence a number of projects were started by three members with the assistance of others. Some of these projects have resulted in publications appearing in the journal under the names of P. C. Stevenson, R. E. Elliott and F. M. Taylor. In April a new project was announced by M. A. Willcock in the Crich area. This kind of work can be very rewarding and instructional. Unfortunately effort in this field has been less active of late. New projects are required and the undersigned would be pleased to hear of anybody keen to become a co-ordinator and general organiser for the logging of temporary exposures.

### Accommodation.

The Society has continued to benefit greatly from the use of free accommodation. Our thanks in this respect are due to the generosity of the University of Nottingham, through Professor W. D. Evans, and the Nottingham Regional College of Technology, through Mr. J. R. Ashton, for the facilities placed at the service of the Society.

### Circulars.

Many members have commented favourably on the improved lay-out and appearance of the circular. Whilst the content (and all the errors) is the responsibility of the Secretary, the production of the circular is now the work of Mrs. M. Owen. Another secretarial assistant is Mrs. D. M. Morrow, who has continued to act as Minutes Secretary and has despatched the circulars. My thanks, and those of the Society, are extended to both these helpers.

### Membership.

It is a pleasure to report a continued increase in membership; after all, this reflects the general acceptance of Council's activities. On 9th June 1967, membership of the Society in its various classes was as follows:-

Ordinary Members	177
Joint Members	32
Junior Members	4
Institutional Members	94
Total	<u>307</u>

### Conclusions.

I am grateful of the opportunity afforded by this report, to record the activities of the Society and the work of members who give devoted and frequently anonymous service to the Society.

17th June, 1967.

F. M. Taylor, (Secretary)  
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The University,  
Nottingham.