

### Introduction

The Mercian Geologist Vol. 2 No. 3, pp. 347-350 contained the Secretary's Report for the period from December 1966 to June 1967. The present report with that noted above gives an account of the 4th year of the Society's activities.

### Society Excursions

The July excursion took members to Castleton (Derbyshire) and was led by Dr. F.M. Taylor. A large party of 43 members and friends attended a strenuous excursion and most finished the course. In September, Dr. Holdsworth took the Society to Longnor (Staffs.) for a look at the beds which occur above the Carboniferous Limestone. This excursion was memorable if only because of the fossil fish found in a block of limestone. Although not found 'in situ' it provoked considerable interest. The final excursion of the summer was to Eastwood and Ambergate led by Mr. J. G. O. Smart and Dr. D.V. Frost. The highlight of this excursion were the vertical or near vertical beds of the Millstone Grit Series seen at the excavation for the new Ambergate Gasworks.

### The Lecture Programme

During the summer vacation, the Department of Geology of Nottingham University moved to more spacious premises next to the Highfields Lido and close to the Nottingham - Long Eaton road. All the 1968 Winter programme was eventually held in these quarters and the Society is grateful to the University of Nottingham, through Professor W.D. Evans for the use of their facilities. The November lecture given by Dr. V.S. Colter opened the programme. He gave a graphic account of the North Sea gas discoveries and said a little about the inland gas sources as well. On January 20th., 1968, Dr. R.B. Sanders (late of the University of Oklahoma, but at present at Nottingham University) gave an illustrated talk on the Geology of Cornwallis Island, Canada. The frost structures shown during this lecture were first-class. This meeting had originally been intended for Matlock but the outbreak of foot and mouth disease meant that both the venue, subject and lecturer had to be changed. It was fortunate that Dr. Sanders was able to step into the breach and lecture to the Society. At the time of writing (January 1968) the epidemic appears to be on the wane but we cannot tell what effect it may yet have on the 1968 excursion programme.

### The Annual Dinner

The 3rd Annual Dinner (4th January 1968) was again held at the Nottingham University Staff Club. Members and their guests were later shown slides taken on Society visits by R. J. A. Travis, Miss E. Ramsell and R. E. Elliott. Miss M. Wild brought along a number of slides taken on holiday.

### The Mercian Geologist

In June 1967, Vol. 2 No. 2 was issued to members. This number largely financed through the University of Leicester consisted entirely of a single work - The Bibliography of the geology of the Peak District of Derbyshire - by Dr. T.D. Ford and Dr. B. Mason. Many members have commented on its usefulness as a source and reference book and it has attracted considerable attention outside the Society. Vol. 2 No. 3 issued in December returned to the accepted format. It had been hoped that this number of the journal would have been available much earlier but because of financial difficulties it was eventually decided to consider Vol. 2 No. 3 the normal December issue. Plates 9, 10, 11, and 12 were printed using a slightly different process to produce the master copy. The improvement was so marked, that all plates in future issues will be produced by this method. Both 1967 issues were collated by members at

considerable financial saving for the Society. Dr. W.A.S. Sarjeant left for Oklahoma in August 1967 for twelve months. His place as Editor has been taken temporarily by Dr. W.A. Cummins.

### The Society's Trust Fund

A major policy decision, to establish a Trust Fund, was taken by Council early in the year and occupied a large part of the Council's deliberations during the year. The main object of the fund is to give the Society sound financial backing and at the same time provide the Society with a little extra income. There would also be benefits from Income Tax Rebates. The Trust Fund is to be established by Trust Deed and on December 7th, 1967, at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Society, the Council was formally authorised by Members to proceed with the establishment of the Fund. The first major donation, which could be transferred to the fund was received in November 1967 contributed by Mr. C.P.H. Barnes.

### The Film Evening

The Society showed a series of geological films on December 7th., which was attended by 56 members and their friends. This was the first such meeting organised by the Society although members were once invited to see the film 'Volcano' at the Nottingham Regional College of Technology. This evening was mainly arranged and the films projected by Mr. L.M. Willies. It was generally agreed that further films should be shown on other occasions. The films screened were:-

And the rocks must be melted,  
Volcanic Power,  
North Sea Strike

### Membership

The membership of the Society continued to rise. Comparable figures for February 1967 and February 1968 are tabulated below:-

	February 1967	February 1968	Increase
Ordinary Members	149	165	16
Joint Members	32	48	16
Junior Members	3	6	3
Honorary Members	2	2	-
Institutional Members	94	102	8
Total	288	323	43

During 1967 the Society learnt with regret of the deaths of Mr. C.A. Sledger and Dr. W.M. Lobjait.

14 Members resigned during the year. These figures were not included in those showing the number of Ordinary Members printed on p. 350 Mercian Geologist Vol. 2 No. 3, which this gave a rather optimistic picture at that time. One member transferred from Ordinary to Joint Membership. It should be remembered that 48 Joint Members pay 24 subscriptions at 30/-.

## Conclusions

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who have given freely of their time and energy in assisting in the work of the Society. There are the secretarial assistants, editorial assistants including writers, referees, collators and editors; members who have assisted in organising meetings; there are also the lecturers, excursion leaders and exhibitors. If all these individuals were listed it would be a very long list indeed. On this occasion I would like to express my appreciation and the thanks of the Society to them all collectively and hope that the list will continue to grow making the Society essentially more active and energetic. Please continue to offer your services and answer the appeals for help given from time to time in the Society's circular.

F.M. Taylor