

Secretary's Report, February 1969 to August 1969

The commencement of the Society's sixth year saw no changes in the membership of the governing body, for at the A.G.M. in February there was little excitement to record as the previous Council was re-elected without opposition for a further year. During the 1968 session, Council met on seven occasions to conduct the Society's business and continued to do so during 1969 unchanged in composition. The President in his Presidential Address continued his account of the East Midlands Coal Measures, this time concerned with sedimentary processes. This address will undoubtedly be considered, along with his first, as a first class contribution to our knowledge of British Coal Measures.

At the beginning of March, 1969, Mr. R.J.B.Kenna gave a brilliant talk on the East Midlands Iron Ore deposits. Many members commented on the presentation of this lecture and voted it into a high place on the lecture list.

The indoor programme was completed by the Collector's Evening. Although the number of exhibits was a little lower than the previous year, the quality was high. Attendance was excellent and the meeting is obviously a popular activity of the Society. Can I ask all members who have not yet brought along specimens to this type of meeting to make a special effort to support the efforts of the regular exhibitors? How about an exhibit from one or more of our schools subscribers? The date of the next Collector's evening is 7th March, 1970.

So far in 1969 we have had four field excursions. The weekend meeting in Shropshire - too long delayed according to some members - was ably led by Dr. I.D. Sutton and Dr. W.A.S. Sarjeant during early May. The excursion was centred at Church Stretton and is fully described in this issue (Vol. 3, No. 3) of the journal. It was duly observed that these two leaders had led a full week's excursion in this area for another group previously so that they should have a further Shropshire excursion available for a future occasion.

Everybody cannot afford to be away for a weekend and as we had two such excursions scheduled for the 1969 programme another type of excursion was organised during May. This was a half-day excursion, the first to be run by this Society. It visited an open-cast coal site near Ripley and was arranged with the co-operation of the site contractor, by Mr. G. Jago (N.C.B. Open Cast Executive). Although this visit was a return visit to the site, at Street Lane, Ripley (Mercian Geologist Vol. 2 No. 4 pp. 439-442) attendance was excellent and including many who were unable to attend the longer field excursions.

On a magnificent day in June, Mr. A.M. Honeyman took the Society around the Jurassic exposures of Ancaster and Lincoln. Many members will have photographs of their fellow members crawling around a surface of the Lincolnshire Limestone looking for pockets of fossils on the limestone surface. The Lias clay pits were for once not waterlogged. A remarkable day, organised and presented to the Society by an enthusiastic and able geologist.

In July, the Society travelled to N. Staffordshire, and were met by Mr. E.A. Francis. In contrast to the previous excursion the weather at the start was almost wintry but we understood that it was good, for that part of the country. The mixture of sedimentary and tectonic structures and palaeontology, ensured ample variety for all members. Our thanks are given to Mr. Francis for travelling fown from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to lead the Society over ground he knows extremely well

The policy of the Society has been to have a larger number of day excursions compared with those of longer or shorter duration. It has also been considered best to hire a coach rather than to use private cars. This year we have never had any doubt that a coach, other than a 41 seater, would be necessary. Your continued support of our excursion programme suggests that our general policy is acceptable. However, do please contact your Council - any member will do - if a modification of the programme is thought necessary.

Membership continues to rise, although during the middle part of the year the rate slowed down a little. At the end of July there were 407 members in the Society.

The Society has continued to receive help from many individuals and institutions. Although not listed on this occasion, may I offer a collective vote of thanks to them all. Please continue to offer assistance and help in the organisation of Society affairs.

F.M. Taylor