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EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN commencing a new volume the Editors desire to convey their thanks for the generous support they have received during the past year from contributors and subscribers. They still, however, find themselves faced with financial difficulties of a serious nature, arising from the continued increase in the cost of production. For the first half of 1920 a small profit was made, but this was almost wiped out by a considerable further rise in the cost of printing in the middle of the year. An important item in expenses is the cost of plates, and they are regretfully compelled to inform their contributors that it will under present conditions be impossible to produce plates at the expense of the Magazine. They feel sure, however, that their friends will not hesitate to incur the expense involved in meeting the cost of the illustrations, which are so necessary to bring out the full value of their papers. Many of them have done so voluntarily in the past, and the Editors trust that even under the present conditions, that bear so heavily on people of moderate means, they will be able to continue to provide them.

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WHILE on this subject we should like also to take our readers and subscribers into our confidence and to inform them that although arrangements have been made which, at any rate, ensure continuance for 1921, there are limits to this sort of thing. In the first place it should be made quite clear that the Editors receive no remuneration, and are, as a matter of fact, slightly out of pocket as the result of their labours. Nevertheless, they do their work gladly in the interests of geological science, which they earnestly hope is really benefited by the continued existence of the Magazine, and they would feel the greatest regret if they were compelled by force of circumstances to relinquish their self-imposed labour of love. There are in hand at the present time a very large number of important papers awaiting publication, forming the firstfruits of the renewal of geological activity since the War; interest in many old problems has revived, and many new ones await solution. At the present time the prospects of our science are bright, and the Editors appeal earnestly to all its votaries to support them in their endeavours to further its progress. The Geological Society of America set an excellent example a year ago by guaranteeing forty new subscriptions to the Magazine, an act which has been the main factor making possible its continuance

during 1920, and it may be suggested that if each of our readers could obtain even one new subscriber the future of the Magazine would be assured.

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WE have received a copy of the Annual Return made by order of the Trustees of the British Museum, showing the work performed by the Staff of the various departments, the visits made by the public, and the objects acquired by purchase and donation during the year 1919, with the income and expenditure for this great national institution, Bloomsbury, and its branch the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington. The number of visitors to the Natural History collections during 1919 was 455,736.

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GEOLOGISTS will be glad to learn that the collection of fossil corals and brachiopods from the Carboniferous Limestone of Britain and Belgium, made by the late Dr. Arthur Vaughan, has been secured for the Geological Department of the Museum. Owing to the wide distribution of our armies during the War, and of scattered British subjects in foreign lands, numerous additions have been made to the foreign collections of the Geological Department. Vertebrate remains have been presented from Afghanistan, Salonika, Egypt, the Sudan, Switzerland, Sinai, and California; and invertebrate fossils and plants from New Zealand, Australia, Arabia, Peru, Hanover, Canada, India, Persia, Ypres (Flanders), Malta, Taranto (Italy), Jamaica, Sardinia, the United States, Colorado, Dalecarlia (Sweden), Central Arabia, Esthonia, Samara, Russia, and Manchuria.

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A GREAT work of national importance carried on in the Geological Department is Mr. C. Davies Sherborn's Index of the Genera and Species of Animals. During the past three years considerable progress has been made with this Index, under Mr. Sherborn's charge, and some 90,000 references have been added to the manuscript. The letter "T" of authors has now been reached. The manuscript has been continuously and extensively consulted by the staff and by students, whilst many inquiries have been answered by Mr. Sherborn in correspondence, which has been greatly increased owing to the many practical uses to which natural science is now applied, necessitating accurate nomenclature of the animals referred to. Further publication by Mr. Sherborn of bibliographic data has not been necessary during the past year; but a large draught has been made upon his manuscript by Mr. Gregory Mathews and Mr. Tom Iredale for their *Birds of Australia* and *Mollusca of Australia*.

