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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE year that has just closed is in one respect a landmark in the history of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, in that we have to deplore the loss of the founder and Editor-in-chief. A treasured copy of the first number, dated July 1, 1864, now lying before us, bears the following inscription on its cover: "Edited by T. Rupert Jones, F.G.S., assisted by Henry Woodward, F.G.S., F.Z.S." Dr. Woodward very soon became principal editor, and performed the work up to June, 1919, and until within a very few weeks of his death he continued to take an interest in the editorship; thus his name appeared on the cover for a total period of over fifty-seven years. This surely must be a record for any periodical. It is perhaps of interest also to note that the *format* of the Magazine was in the first number to all intents and purposes identical with what it is now, and the classification of contents is very similar.

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At the beginning of this new volume we wish to inform our readers that although the Magazine is still far from being in a sound financial position, nevertheless, through the support of certain eminent geologists arrangements have been made which we hope and believe will secure continuance through the year. Once more at the risk of becoming tedious we would impress upon our readers the necessity for increasing the subscription list; a large circulation is the only sound basis for a periodical, scientific or otherwise. In the circumstances it will unfortunately be necessary to continue to ask contributors to pay the expenses entailed in illustrating their papers. This necessity is much regretted, as most geologists are not possessed of wealth, but it is unfortunately inevitable. While on this subject we should like to suggest to contributors one or two ways in which they can save expense. The first point is to send in all illustrations in a state allowing of direct reproduction, without any modification, or re-drawing. All line-drawings should be at least twice the size that they are intended to appear, and authors are particularly requested to bear in mind the subsequent reduction when adding letters and numbers to their drawings. In many cases when reproduced the lettering appears so small as to be illegible, or nearly so. It should also be borne in mind that shading cannot be reproduced in text figures, which must consist entirely of clear lines. The Editor is also strongly of opinion that for many classes of illustrations drawings are much more effective than photographs, and text-figures

cost less than plates. With regard to manuscripts, a good deal of editorial time is often wasted over such matters as inconsistencies in the use of capitals, italics, and hyphens, and by references not given in the standard form. It is perhaps hardly necessary to insist on the expense occasioned by extensive alterations in proofs. All this may seem somewhat ungracious, but our kind friends the authors of papers are asked to remember that the editorship is a purely honorary post, which has to be combined with the many other avocations of a somewhat busy life. This must be the excuse for this little lecture. After all, we are only asking contributors to edit their own papers.

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SOME time ago we ventured to comment in these columns on the attitude adopted by the Government towards the present deplorable position of the non-ferrous metalliferous mining industry of this country, a subject which must be of interest to all geologists. It was pointed out that the Secretary for Mines rather went out of his way to intimate that in no circumstances could any financial help be given. This contrasts strongly with the official attitude towards coal-mining. It is true that the country can continue to exist without metalliferous mines, while without coal any form of industry is impossible, nevertheless, the present state of affairs is no less than a disaster to the community. The chief factors in the situation are the low price of metals and the high price of coal, the result being that even with all possible economies working costs must exceed any possible value of the output. In justice to the miners in this industry it should be made clear that labour troubles have little to do with the matter; they are unemployed from no fault of their own, and would be only too glad to work for reduced wages, or almost any wages. But the general economic conditions are too strong for them. Furthermore, owing to the enormous price of coal it is found impossible in most cases to continue pumping the mines, which are now flooded, and many of them will probably never open again. Thus a valuable industry is being permanently lost to the country. So much for reconstruction after the war. We suggest that public money judiciously expended in subsidies towards keeping the mines in a condition to render resumption of work possible at some future date would be a wise investment and a true economy.

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WE have, however, an ulterior motive in raising this question here; namely, to call the attention of our readers to the terrible conditions of distress that prevail in the mining districts of Cornwall. We do not for a moment suggest that the miners and their families in other areas are less deserving, but we do not happen to be so well acquainted with the facts elsewhere. In the chief mining district of Western Cornwall, including the parishes of Camborne, Redruth,

Illogan, Gwennap, Stithian, St. Agnes, Chacewater, Baldhu, Wendron, Praze, Crowan, and Gwinear there are at present unemployed over 3,000 miners, representing some 16,000 dependents. All the mines are closed through no fault of the men, but purely on economic grounds, the price of tin now being considerably less than before the war. These men never had a high rate of wages, and received no inflated war bonus, and when the depression began many of them offered to return 20 per cent of their wages in the hope that thus it might be possible to keep the mines open. At present there is nothing for them except relief work on a very limited scale. We are glad to learn that there is a slight possibility of improved conditions owing to a projected large-scale amalgamation of mines, but it must be long before this can produce any appreciable effect. Meanwhile, but for the efforts of the local Mining Unemployment Relief Committee, great distress and actual destitution must prevail, and we desire most urgently to recommend this good cause to the generosity of our readers. Subscriptions or gifts in kind, especially clothing, boots, and shoes, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, the Rev. W. A. Bryant, Beacon Hill, Camborne, Cornwall.

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THE Syndics of the Cambridge University Press will shortly begin the publication of a new series, entitled *The Provinces of Ireland*. The volumes will be under the general editorship of Mr. George Fletcher, of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland; each will contain sections on ancient geography, topography, geology, botany, zoology, antiquities, architecture, administration, education, industries, and distinguished men; the contributors include Professor R. A. S. Macalister, Professor G. A. J. Cole, Professor Isaac Swain, Mr. R. Lloyd Praeger, Mr. E. C. R. Armstrong, Dr. R. I. Best, and Mr. George Fletcher. The volumes will be of convenient size (about 180 crown octavo pages each), and will be illustrated by maps, diagrams, and photographs. The volumes on Ulster and Munster will be ready immediately; these will be followed in the early spring by Leinster and Connaught, and the series will be completed by a somewhat larger volume dealing with Ireland as a whole. Finally, it may be added, that political controversy is rigidly excluded from all volumes of the series, and it is hoped that the plan of the books may be as acceptable in Belfast and Londonderry as in Dublin and Cork.

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IN November last Mr. James Mann Wordie, M.A., was admitted into a Fellowship at St. John's College, Cambridge. Mr. Wordie has paid special attention to glacial problems, and carried out explorations in circumpolar regions. He was on the Shackleton Antarctic Expedition of 1914-17, and has since visited Spitsbergen and Jan Mayen Island. On his return from the Antarctic Expedition he served in the war as a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery.