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EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN view of the interest aroused among geologists by the active political and press propaganda now in progress concerning the oil-borings in Derbyshire, it seemed advisable to publish forthwith the paper by Mr. V. C. Illing alluded to in our editorial last month. To do this necessitated the postponement of the second half of the paper on Potash by Dr. Holmes, begun in our June number, but Dr. Holmes has kindly consented to give precedence to his colleague in view of the urgency of the matter. Even by this arrangement the traditional balance of the Magazine has been somewhat upset, but the case is exceptional, and we do not intend to apologize for it. Our only concession is to cut down the editorial pages to a considerable extent, in order to prevent too much encroachment on the space allotted to reviews.

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WE are glad to note the election of Professor O. T. Jones, M.A., D.Sc., to the Professorship of Geology in the University of Manchester. Professor Jones graduated at Cambridge in 1902 and was subsequently awarded the Harkness Scholarship and the Sedgwick Prize; in 1903 he joined the Geological Survey of England, on which he served with distinction until 1910, when he was elected to the Professorship of Geology at University College, Aberystwyth. During his tenure of that chair he has discharged his duties with marked success and has published important papers on the Lower Palæozoic rocks of Wales.

We wish him a prosperous career in his new position, where he will have increased opportunity to carry out geological work of various kinds.

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NOTWITHSTANDING the demands made by the War on the United States National Museum, the report for the year ending June 30, 1918, gives a record of much progress. Apart from the activities connected directly with the War, such as the selection of suitable vesicular rocks for use in the construction of concrete ships, the provision of technical information to Intelligence Bureaux, and the satisfying of demands from such State Departments as the Bureau of Standards and the Department of Agriculture, much has been accomplished for the Museum itself. In connexion with the collection of minerals of importance for war materials, an exhibit worthy of note is that of the largest mass of tungsten ore yet mined—a mass of scheelite weighing 2,614 pounds. Another notable addition is a collection of nearly ten thousand specimens

obtained by Dr. C. D. Walcott from the Middle Cambrian of Burgess Pass, British Columbia. From this locality also, a ton and a half of material was sent to the Museum as the result of last field-season's work. The quarry that yielded the best of the famous Middle Cambrian fossils is now practically exhausted. Details given of other results of the Museum's official "Explorations" show quite clearly the advantages that would accrue if corresponding features were organized in the big institutions of this country.

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So much unpublished information was accumulated by the Geological Survey of Western Australia, that the preparation of reports occupied a proportionately greater amount of the Staff's time than actual field-work (Annual Progress Report of the Geological Survey of Western Australia for 1917). This circumstance, combined with the fact that the activities of the Survey are becoming more and more of an economic nature, tend to show that some augmentation, in personnel at least, could be made with advantage. In addition to duties in the field and in the office, the Survey is conducting experiments on clays, potash minerals, etc., from which results of value to industry are expected. The Laboratory Report shows that highly satisfactory results are being attained; and in the year under review 1671 samples were registered, an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year. Among the results of the field-work recorded in the above-mentioned report, we read that wolfram, occurring as "floaters", has been found at a locality about 3 miles north of Grass Valley Township, on the Great Eastern Railway, east of Northam. The rocks in this neighbourhood are granitic, with a network of dolerite dykes; the surface is covered by a varying thickness of débris, which has prevented detailed mapping up to the present. It is thought that when the true matrix is discovered it will be a pegmatite.

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THE election of Dr. Arthur Smith Woodward to the Presidency of the Linnean Society of London will be of great interest to geologists. Dr. Woodward filled the office of President of the Geological Society from 1914 to 1916, and has served a term as Vice-President of the Zoological Society.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

I.—THE SEARCH FOR SUBTERRANEAN "OIL-POOLS" IN THE BRITISH ISLES.

By V. C. ILLING, M.A., F.G.S.

(PLATE VII.)

IT is curious how readily the public misconceives even the most simple of scientific problems. A plausible theory, no matter how fallacious, will gain an immediate currency which it is difficult to undermine until it has run its course. Such theories do harm to the public, to industry, and to science, and they should be