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EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE must begin the new year by congratulating ourselves that we are alive at all. At one time the outlook was very unpromising, but prospects are now a little brighter, mainly owing to the unremitting exertions of many kind friends, both known and unknown, at home and abroad, to whom the Editors tender their hearty thanks for encouragement and support in a time of need. However, we are not yet out of the wood, and it is obvious that the strictest economy will be necessary for some time to come. It may perhaps be well to point out for the guidance of our contributors some ways in which they can assist in the economy campaign. In the first place the cost of production of plates is now inordinately high, and it may be as well to state definitely that the Magazine cannot afford to publish plates without at least a substantial contribution from the author. We therefore ask our contributors to limit their demands in this respect as much as possible. Again, corrections and alterations in type are now very costly, and much money could be saved if all manuscripts were sent in finally corrected. Occasional printer's errors, though rare in our proofs, are not wholly avoidable, and as to these there is nothing to be said. But it is the alterations of and additions to the text in proof that make the printer's bills mount up. We can assure our readers that with our present circulation the monthly account for corrections is an important item in the balance-sheet.

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It may be permissible here to refer to one or two other matters of internal politics. In the first place it will perhaps be noticed that the present number is printed with a new fount of type, and that the titles of papers have been made rather more bold and conspicuous. Again, the former system of numbering the volumes by Series and Decades has disappeared, having been found too cumbrous. The volume for 1919 is numbered alternatively on the title-page Vol. LVI of Whole Series, and the present one is Vol. LVII. In future references in this Magazine to back numbers before 1919 will be given by the year of publication only, without Series or Decade. Most people have their bound volumes lettered simply with the year, and it requires a complicated arithmetical process to discover

what is meant by, for example, N.S., Dec. V, Vol. VII. It was our original intention to continue the present system to the end of the Sixth Decade, but on further consideration the bolder course of a clean cut appeared to have much to recommend it, and was finally adopted.

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THE Non-ferrous Mining Committee continues to hold frequent meetings, and has heard a number of witnesses, who discussed points of interest, especially in connexion with Cornish mining. The general opinion seems to be that in most cases considerable fresh capital is essential for development adequate to meet modern conditions. The outcome, however, depends wholly on the future course of the market for metallic tin. At present prices wolfram appears to be entirely unpayable, and it is regrettable to hear that the very promising Hemerdon mine is closed, after installing new plant on a large scale. The directors appear to be of opinion that the minimum remunerative price is about 55s. per unit. At present only one mine is working in the St. Ives district, namely Giew, and that at a loss. It is estimated that to restart the St. Ives Consols group would require an expenditure of £180,000, and it is improbable that so much capital could be raised by private enterprise at this time. Mr. Oliver Wethered expressed the view that the production of the known tinfields of the world could not keep pace with the increasing demand, and was of opinion that high prices for tin would rule for some time to come. With regard to Cornwall, he thought there were possibilities of large production, but considered some immediate help was desirable to stimulate development and to assist in the opening up of new ore-bodies, for the existence of which there is geological evidence.

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It has recently been announced that the Geological Survey of Great Britain has been transferred from the Board of Education to the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research; thus this institution undergoes another mutation in its variegated career. In this connexion it may be permissible to point out that the development of our mineral resources is now under the control of no less than five Government departments. The Home Office is in charge of mines in this country; the Mineral Resources Department formed by the Ministry of Munitions has been handed over to the Board of Trade; the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau collects information with regard to the Dominions and Colonies; the Imperial Institute, which has done admirable work on similar lines, is under the Colonial Office, while, as before stated, the Geological Survey is now under the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research. These facts suggest that there must be an immense amount of overlap and want of correlation in the different branches, and that it is high time that all these scattered departments were

welded into a coherent whole under one responsible head. We may be allowed to hope that the institution of a Ministry of Mines will not be long delayed. When this comes to pass it is possible that economic and applied geology will gain some of the recognition which is their due, and that the Government geologists may receive salaries commensurate with their high scientific attainments and with the important character of the work so ably carried out by them.

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THE water resources of Queensland obtained by boring are of vast importance to that fertile Australian State, and expert testimony upon the conditions underlying this supply is of great interest not only to those who depend upon them for their means of irrigating the country, but also to engineers engaged in supplying the equipment for this natural resource. An artesian expert writing on the subject says: "My experiences with the bores lead me to the following conclusions, which have been proved correct by boring: When years ago artesian bores were first put down it was the custom to drill a hole an inch larger than the casing, so that the casing would go down easily. This has to be done now. When another layer of casing had to be put in it was just lowered down to where the first lot had struck, and drilling continued. When the flow was struck it came up the casing, and it also came up the space around the casing to the higher sand levels. In time this constant friction of the water made the passage much larger, and in consequence the flow decreased. Now this escaping of the waters to these higher sand levels has done an immense amount of good, as it has put large supplies of subartesian waters where none existed before. I have got the records of artesian bores put down which went through huge dry sand drifts. These bores have a diminished flow, but the sand beds are now full of water, and bores being put down all over them give pumping supplies from 10 to 20 thousand gallons per day at a depth of from 80 to 200 feet. Also from these bores there is no waste, and it is easier and cheaper to put down twenty of them, which will water a larger area of country and will not cost as much money as the one artesian bore."

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MR. T. W. READER, F.G.S., has been selected by the Geologists' Association as the first recipient of the Foulerton Award. The sum of money which has enabled the Association to make this award is the recent generous gift of Miss Foulerton, in accordance with the wishes of her late uncle, Dr. John Foulerton, who was for many years secretary to the Association.