

disused. The three localities from which the Old Red Sandstone supplied bricks are now disused.

This part contains, besides the Presidential Address (by Dr. E. T. Wilson) on "Our Inheritance", a short paper on "Stone Circles on the Blackhedge Estate", by Mr. L. Richardson, and a note by Dr. A. Smith Woodward on "*Euthynotus*: a Fossil Fish from the Upper Lias of Dumbleton, Glos."

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IX.—MICROPETROLOGY FOR BEGINNERS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE USE OF THE MICROSCOPE IN THE EXAMINATION OF THIN SECTIONS OF IGNEOUS ROCKS. By J. E. WYNFIELD RHODES, B.Sc. 8vo; pp. xv, 126, with 1 plate and 26 text-illustrations. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1912. Price 2s. 6d. net.

THIS little book, introduced to the public in a preface by Mr. C. H. Sidebotham, F.G.S., will prove a useful primer for the student, and will no doubt be an aid to those going up for examination in petrology. The methods of preparing thin slices of rock and of identifying the minerals under the microscope, the composition of the principal rock-forming minerals and of the igneous rocks, including such forms as Laurvigite, Foyaite, Ditroite, Hyperite, Markfieldite, and Teschenite, are treated systematically and concisely. Finally, there is a glossarial index.

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X.—THE VOYAGE OF THE *DISCOVERY*. By Captain ROBERT F. SCOTT, C.V.O., R.N. Re-issue, 2 vols. 8vo; pp. xiv, ix, 410, 387, with 12 plates and 2 maps. London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1912. Price 3s. 6d. each vol.

THIS work was originally published in two large octavo volumes in 1905. It has now been re-issued in smaller size and at a price which will be welcome to many geologists and students in different branches of science, as well as to a wide circle of other readers interested in this fascinating record of arduous and successful exploration. The text has been reproduced intact, with the summary of the geological observations by Mr. H. T. Ferrar, and the account of the whales, seals, and birds by Mr. E. A. Wilson. To the student of glacial phenomena the whole narrative is full of instruction on ice and ice-action, and the only regret felt will be in the fact that but few of the original illustrations have been reproduced.

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#### XI.—BRIEF NOTICES.

1. MINERALOGICAL NOTES.—Under the title "Mineralogical Notes, Series 1", the United States Geological Survey has published Bulletin 490 (Washington, 1911), by Dr. Waldemar T. Schaller. This is a continuation of Bulletin 262 (1905), and contains the results of further research carried on by the author in the chemical laboratory of the Survey. Some of the papers were originally written and published in conjunction with members of the Survey; acknowledgment has been made to these, and some papers have been re-arranged. Among the minerals considered chemically, hulsite, paigeite, jamesonite,

and warrenite may be mentioned, and a few pages are devoted to the composition of molybdc ochre. Some new forms of calcite crystals are also described.

2. FOSSIL BEAVER FROM CALIFORNIA.—Publication 17 of the University of California (Bulletin of the Department of Geology) contains the description and figures of a tooth m. 2 of *Castor californicus*, n.sp., by Dr. Louise Kellogg. The specimen was found at the northern end of the Kettleman Hills, Fresno County, and is of Middle Etchegoin (late Miocene or early Pliocene) age, being therefore the earliest known true beaver from America. It is very similar in pattern to the teeth of various recent species of *Castor* found on the Pacific Coast, and is compared with *C. neglectus*, Schlosser.

3. GEOLOGY AND FOLK-LORE.—An interesting essay entitled “‘Snakestones’ and Stone Thunderbolts as subjects for systematic investigation” has been communicated by Mr. Walter W. Skeat (*Folk-lore*, xxiii, p. 45, March, 1912). He has given many records of fossils used as charms or as medicinal cures, or connected with forms of worship. Thus, in India both celts and ammonites are connected with the worship of Vishnu.<sup>1</sup>

4. BRITISH LATE-GLACIAL AND POST-GLACIAL DEPOSITS.—An essay by Mr. G. W. Lamplugh on this subject was brought before the International Geological Congress at Stockholm in 1910 (reprinted from the *Postglaziale Klimaveränderungen*). After expressing his conclusions “that there is no clear evidence for the supposed separate glaciations and warm inter-Glacial epochs, but on the other hand there is strong evidence that the main ice-sheets persisted throughout the Glacial period, and only their margins oscillated widely”, he proceeds to discuss the field-evidence, which leads him to believe that the post-Glacial deposits were accumulated during progressive amelioration of climate.

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## REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

March 27, 1912.—Dr. Aubrey Strahan, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. “The Glaciation of the Black Combe District (Cumberland).”  
By Bernard Smith, M.A., F.G.S.

After a brief discussion of previous work and literature, a short sketch is given of the geological structure of the district.

With the exception of the western coastal plain the main topographical features are pre-Glacial, but they have been either subdued or accentuated by glaciation. The chief pre-Glacial drainage-lines determined those of the present day.

Evidence is given to show that, during the flood-tide of glaciation, the whole district was swamped beneath an ice-sheet formed by the

<sup>1</sup> See also Dr. H. Woodward, “On Fossils applied as Charms or Ornaments”: *GEOL. MAG.*, 1893, p. 246.