

THE
GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE
VOLUME LX.

No. VI.—JUNE, 1923.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

AN appeal has been issued on behalf of the Department of Geology at University College, Reading. Isolated departmental appeals are novel; but the times are deplorably changed, and institutions for teaching and research can barely hold their own, still less expand. But, whatever conditions may obtain in later life, youth must grow and develop, or perish. This Department is only 14 years old. During that brief period it has grown from an embryo with one junior lecturer and two elementary students to robust and active adolescence with a Professor, a Lecturer, 35 degree-students, about 70 elementary students and a Workers' Educational Tutorial Class. In spite of war-time conditions, 28 of its past students have passed the B.Sc. Examination of London University, and 3 others have taken Honours. Its activity in research is well known to our readers, for no less than 27 papers have appeared here. Almost as many, several of considerable bulk, have appeared elsewhere. The Geological Survey of New Zealand has sent its Fossil Echinoidea to be monographed from the Department; and research is in progress on many other topics.

All of this work and output has been accomplished with practically no material resources. There are no laboratories or museum—all classes are held in other departments. The sole erection belonging to the Department is an asbestos-fibre hut measuring 20 feet by 12 feet! Each year more students are attracted to Geology, and a critical stage has been reached. An effort is being made to raise £5,000, so that walls and a roof may be added to the reputation on which the Department lives at present.

The appeal, signed by Professor H. L. Hawkins and Dr. A. R. Dwerryhouse, has already met with generous response, but more help is urgently needed. Contributions, however modest, from those interested in the progress of geological knowledge, would give welcome encouragement. Cheques may be sent direct to the Professor; or, with a covering letter to explain their purpose, to the Registrar of the College.