

the peneplain of the Veld had probably been worn down with reference to the normal base-level of the ocean when the region stood several thousand feet lower than now; and that its uplift is so recent that, over most of the surface, the long, west-flowing rivers have not yet had time to deepen their valleys in their upper and middle courses. Farther towards the Atlantic, it is to be expected that a beginning of incision must already have been made; but critical observations are lacking in that direction.

Further physiographic results of the same excursion are presented in an article on "The Mountains of Southernmost Africa" (*Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, XXXVIII., 1906, 593-623), where the heavy Mesozoic series and a conformably underlying Paleozoic series are folded in well-defined east-west anticlines and synclines, apparently peneplained in one cycle and greatly eroded in a second, with the result of developing a remarkably well-adjusted drainage system, containing excellent examples of subsequent and resequent streams, as well as of deep-cut transverse water gaps in the ridges. Many of the ridges are anticlines, and serve admirably to correct the prevailing misapprehension that the ridges of long-eroded mountains should be of synclinal structure.

W. M. D.

DEDICATION OF THE ALDROVANDI MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA, ITALY

WITH felicitous ceremonies, extending through June 11-13, the University of Bologna has dedicated to the memory of the illustrious seventeenth century Bolognese naturalist, Aldrovandus, a new geological museum. Amongst the foreign universities represented were Glasgow, Oxford, Cambridge, Berlin, Königsberg, Breslau, Halle, Vienna, Paris, Upsala, Christiania, Pennsylvania, Yale, Michigan, Cornell, etc.

The addresses on the principal day were delivered before a distinguished audience in the Archgymnasium, Senator Capellini, president of the University of Bologna, presiding. Following his eloquent address, a study of the

motif of the occasion was given by Professor Costa. Responses from foreign countries were given by Professors Brusina, of Agram; Pélistier, of Montpellier; Ferguson, of Glasgow; Schück, of Upsala; Borcea, of Rumania; Richter, of Hungary, and Dr. Wieland, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The celebration was finally concluded by a dinner tendered the delegates by the mayor of Bologna.

The University of Bologna enjoys the proud distinction of being the oldest university in Europe, and possesses in addition to fine zoological collections, paleontological collections of great importance, as well remembered by Americans, due, largely, to the indefatigable efforts of Senator Capellini, now extending through a period of fifty years. This ancient university, so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of modern research and enterprise, is indeed to be congratulated on thus coupling the deep historical interest of the vast and wonderful pioneer labors of Aldrovandus, whom Capellini happily compares with Aristotle, with twentieth century science.

G. R. W.

CENTENARY OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY¹

IN September next the Geological Society will celebrate its hundredth birthday. In honor of this interesting occasion preparations have for some time been in progress. Invitations to the celebration have been issued to all the foreign members and foreign correspondents of the society; the various geological surveys all over the globe, universities having chairs of geology or mineralogy, scientific academies, societies and museums at home and abroad have been invited to send delegates to London. The large number of acceptances already received include the names of many of the most distinguished geologists of the present day, both in the old and the new world.

It has been arranged that a series of excursions to various parts of this country shall take place before the centennial meeting,

¹ From *Nature*.