

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 SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

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,

<sup>1</sup> From *Nature*.

under the conduct of fellows of the society conversant with the geology of the several selected districts. These excursions will begin on Wednesday, September 18, and the excursionists will all be back in London by the evening of September 25. The celebration of the centenary, which will extend over three days, will begin on Thursday, September 26, at 11 o'clock, in the Hall of the Institution of Civil Engineers, when the chair will be taken by Sir Archibald Geikie, who has been elected president of the society for the second time in order that he may preside on this occasion. The foreign members and foreign correspondents, and the delegates from institutions at home and abroad, will then be received by him, and will present their addresses. In the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, in the same hall, the president will deliver an address, while in the evening a banquet will be given by the society to its colonial and foreign guests.

Friday, September 27, will be chiefly devoted to visits to museums, galleries, etc., concluding with an evening reception. On Saturday, September 28, short excursions have been projected to places of geological interest within easy reach of London. On Monday, September 30, the visitors will be divided into two sections, one of which will go to Oxford, the other to Cambridge. It is understood that the universities will confer honorary degrees on some of the more distinguished geologists from beyond the seas, and that college hospitality will be as abundant and hearty as usual, while those visitors who may still have energy enough left for field-work will be taken on geological excursions from both the university towns. This well-planned combination of scientific intercourse with social pleasure can hardly fail to have a lasting effect in forming and confirming friendships by bringing the geologists of many different countries into close personal relations with each other.

*SIR JOSEPH HOOKER'S NINETIETH  
BIRTHDAY*

SIR JOSEPH HOOKER has addressed the following letter to Sir Trevor Lawrence in reply

to the congratulations of the Royal Horticultural Society on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday:

THE CAMP, SUNNINGDALE,

July 15, 1907.

*My Dear Sir Trevor:* Your letter of the 25th June conveying the hearty congratulations of the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society on the approach of my 90th birthday has gratified me more than I can express.

It is not by many times the first instance I have experienced of the friendly and all too liberal estimate of my labors in the cause of horticulture that the society has entertained.

It has been a source of great regret that I was obliged, when resigning my post of chairman of the Scientific Committee, to abandon all hope of attending our meetings on account of having to devote my energies to the Directorship of Kew, and to the completion of labors on botanical works I have in progress.

I had also to endeavor to overtake arrears of work extending over many years, which are still far from being overtaken. As a botanist I have hereby lost much, for since the days of David Douglas, the Royal Horticultural Society has contributed more botanical science, as represented by collections, publications and experimental research, than any other establishment in Europe.

I have now to request you as their president to accept yourself, and convey to the council and to my fellow-members, my pride and gratitude for this most welcome evidence of their friendship and esteem.

With every good wish for the continued welfare and renown of the society,

Believe me, dear Sir Trevor, sincerely yours,

JOS. D. HOOKER

*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS*

THE seventh International Zoological Congress opens its meeting under the presidency of Mr. Alexander Agassiz at Boston on August 19. An account of the general features of the program, including the visits to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, will be found in the issue of *SCIENCE* for May 17. The full program, so far as papers were announced up to that time, will be found in the issue of *SCIENCE* for August 2.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science opened its annual meeting