

Work in South Lanarkshire has resulted in considerable increase in knowledge concerning the important outlier of the Douglas Coalfield, and a valuable comparison made between the beds at Coalburn and Pontleigh illustrated by clear vertical sections of the rocks worked at the two places. Borings for oil have been made in many places in the coalfields and oil-shale fields, the most interesting being the search for the extension of the Linlithgowshire oil-shales in a north-west direction, without success. The important and interesting details relative to the alternative of these oil-shales are made the subject of a special appendix, illustrated with three admirable vertical sections.

As usual the appendices contain details relative to matters of special economic import; of these which are five in number, three relate to coalfields and two to Mesozoic rocks.

G. L. E.

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Fossil Bird-remains collected by Dr. Forsyth Major in Sardinia, Corsica, and Greece. By E. T. Newton. *Proc. Zool. Soc.* April, 1921.

DR. FORSYTH MAJOR has for many years been interested in collecting fossil vertebrate remains from caves in Sardinia and Corsica, and several years ago some interesting bones of birds from among these fossils were described by Mr. R. Lydekker. Since then further extensive explorations in these and several other caves have yielded many more remains of both mammals and birds. We are still waiting for Dr. Forsyth Major's description of the former, but the Avian bones are briefly described in the present paper by E. T. Newton. A few additional species are noted from the three caves which yielded Mr. Lydekker's specimens. Several other caves have also yielded birds' bones, but by far the greater number are from the Grotta di Funtanedu, near Basta, N.E. Corsica, which is said to be 400 metres above the sea. A list of some thirty-four species is given from this cave, but each is represented by only a few bones. All the forms identified are referred with more or less certainty to living species, but a few of them seem not to have been previously recorded from these Mediterranean islands. Although the Avian species recognized give no clue to the geological horizon of the deposits in these caves, Dr. Forsyth Major has reasons for regarding them with one exception as of Pleistocene Age.

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## REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.

3rd June, 1921.

"The Geology of Belgium, with special reference to the Long Excursion." By L. Dudley Stamp, M.Sc., A.K.C., F.G.S.

Natural regions and physical geography of the country. The northern lowlands, the long narrow Namur Coalfield, the southern

uplands (Ardennes). Relation of topography to geological structure ; the northern lowlands a Palæozoic platform covered by Cretaceous and Tertiary ; the Namur Basin a Devonian-Carboniferous synclinorium ; the Ardennes also a Devonian-Carboniferous synclinorium with a Silurian ridge on the north and Cambrian "massifs" on the south. Geological history of the country ; pre-Devonian rocks ; the great Devonian transgression. The late Carboniferous (Armorican or Hercynian) folding. The Ardennes—London ridge and its influence on Mesozoic and Tertiary stratigraphy. The Cretaceous transgression. The Anglo-Franco-Belgian Basin of Eocene times. Pliocene : Diestian and Lenham Beds. Tectonics — three great epochs of folding ; late Silurian, late Carboniferous (Armorican), Cretaceous-Tertiary (Alpine). The Brabant stable block and its influence on Armorican folding. Some notes on the districts to be visited.

"Possible causes of Mountain Folding." By A. J. Bull, M.Sc., F.Inst.P., F.G.S.

Salient features of the earth's crust, the lines of folded mountains bordered by large regions of no compression. Occasional evidence of tension. Fjords. Fissure eruptions.

Explanations of folding by (a) the assumption that the earth is cooling, (b) periodic contraction of the earth due to molecular rearrangement, (c) penetration of oceanic water into the crust, (d) loading of the crust by terrigenous deposits and other hypotheses. Difficulties of accepting some of these explanations.

Other factors to be considered. Radio-active content of rocks. Isostatic adjustment. Strength of the crust. Crustal tides. Probable condition of the earth's interior. Heterogeneous composition of crust. Suggested explanation of folding as being due to underdrag of crust by convective currents in the asthenosphere, produced by local heating and expansion, enhanced possibly by changes of crystalline form in the cooler parts.

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## OBITUARY.

### M. Rene Fourtau.

By the death of M. René Fourtau, palæontological science has sustained a severe, and in some respects, irreparable loss. Born on 26th February, 1867, he was mainly educated at the College of St. Caprais, Agen. He came to Egypt in 1888, and was associated with the railway administration for some years, being for a while in control of boring operations undertaken in the Delta in connexion with bridge construction. He early became interested in the problems of Egyptian geology, and came into contact with leading palæontological authorities, such as M. de Loriol.

When the Geological Survey of Egypt was founded in 1896,