

in his opinion that the Leadhills shale is many thousand feet higher, and therefore of much younger geological age, than that of Moffat.

JOHN HOPKINSON.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL INQUIRIES.

SIR,—The difficulty I found in getting together information about Richardson, Townsend, and Lonsdale,<sup>1</sup> and the scantiness of the records of many other of the early geologists, has led me to wish that we had a recognized channel for Notes and Queries on subjects of geological history.

I venture to submit that a page or two of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* given to this purpose would be welcomed by young geologists. There are many of the older Fellows of the Geological Society who cherish in their memories fragmentary reminiscences of some of the most honoured and useful among the early workers in the science and the founders of the Society. Some of these preserved, even as detached records, would be of value.

The method of working, opinions held, but never printed, journeys taken, acquaintance with other scientific men, are facts about geologists which may often explain the meaning of their writings.

The origin of many of our geological terms in use, the time and reason of the abandonment of old terms and classifications, the gradual growth and spread of opinions before any indication of them appears in print, are all matters on which young geologists can gain no information except they can be obtained from the veterans of the science and placed on permanent record in print.

A correct appreciation of what has been already done is the first step to future work. Though your *MAGAZINE* is devoted to the *advancement* of science, I beg your consideration as to whether such notes as I suggest may not fitly find a place.

New University Club, St. James's St.,  
London, S.W., December 18, 1872.

W. S. M.

#### NOTES AND QUERIES.

1. Cuvier and Brongniart, in the first abstract they published of their work, state that they made a hurried communication before their investigations were complete because "some circumstances" compelled them to publish at once, in order to claim priority of date. Has it ever been openly stated what these circumstances were? Had they anything to do with William Smith's work in England?

2. In Hamilton's Anniversary Address to the Geological Society on February 15th, 1856, in the obituary notice of Greenough, is this passage, "In that year (1807) he succeeded in associating with himself several active and able advocates of the then infant science, the result of which was a proposal to found a new society, for the furtherance of geological and mineralogical sciences. A printed list of geological queries was issued, and regulations for the management of a new society were discussed and arranged."

Is there any copy of this printed list in existence? It would be interesting to know what were considered at that time to be important geological queries.

W. S. M.

<sup>1</sup> See Proceedings, Bath Field Nat. Club, 1872.