

## Notes and News

*Announcements and other items of crystallographic interest will be published under this heading at the discretion of the Editorial Board. The notes (in duplicate) should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J.N.King, 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England). Publication of an item in a particular issue cannot be guaranteed unless the draft is received 8 weeks before the date of publication.*

### International Union of Crystallography

Report of Executive Committee for 1968

The Report of the Executive Committee for the year 1968 has been published in *Acta Crystallographica*, Section A (*Acta Cryst.* (1969). A25, 719). It reports on meetings held in 1968, proposals for amendments to the Union Statutes and By-Laws, future meetings and congresses, substitutions and appointments, publications, Adhering Bodies (including the latest lists of (i) names and addresses of Secretaries of National Committees and (ii) changed memberships of National Committees), the work of the Commissions of the Union and of bodies not belonging to the Union, on which the Union is represented. The reader is invited to consult the reference given; it is deemed superfluous to publish the full report in both *Acta Crystallographica* Sections and in the *Journal of Applied Crystallography*.

### Third International Liquid Crystal Conference Berlin, B.R.D., 24-28 August 1970

The Third International Liquid Crystal Conference will be held in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, 24-28 August 1970. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee and of the Conference is Dr R.Hosemann, Fritz-Haber-Institut der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Faradayweg 4-6, 1 BERLIN 33 (Dahlem), B.R.D. The latest date for registration and submission of papers is 1 May 1970. Papers should be sent to:

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## Book Reviews

*Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (M. M. Woolfson, Physics Department, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.*

**The American Mineralogical Journal. Archibald Bruce, M.D. Contributions to the History of Geology. Vol. 1.** Edited by GEORGE W. WHITE. Pp. xvii + 270. New York: Hafner, 1968. Price U.S. \$ 18.00.

This facsimile of the 1814 edition of the short-lived *American Mineralogical Journal* will provide interesting reading for historians of geology and mineralogy. The simple, narrative style of many of the contributors gives us delightful accounts of pioneers of American geology in the early nineteenth century, at the same time preserving the thrill of their discoveries. This aspect of the journal should make Volume I of this series of interest not only to professional historians of the natural sciences, but to many amateur collectors on both sides of the Atlantic.

Consultation of the list of contributors to the journal reveals notable geologists and mineralogists from Europe and America. As Professor John C. Greene points out in his Introduction, Archibald Bruce had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of many leading mineralogists during a five-year period of study and travel. Count de Bournon, Charles Francis Greville, Abbé René Just Haüy and Heinrich Struve were among those notable figures whom he was privileged to encounter.

The first publication of the Journal in 1810 (January) includes a comprehensive list of 'Geological Inquiries' as proposed by the London Geological Society. The varied professional status of the contributors to the Journal certainly confirmed Bruce's intentions to enlist the services of 'the miner, the quarrier, the surveyor, the engineer, the collier, the iron master and even the traveller', to assist in the making of geological observations.

Much of the content of the Journal is devoted to the search for and study of minerals of economic importance - coal, iron, lead, copper. Number 3 of the Journal includes a lengthy extract by Dr James Millar of Edinburgh, entitled, 'Of the Indications of Coal and Methods of Searching for It'. The reason given for this insertion is 'the rising price of fuel due to the interruption of our supplies of coal from Great Britain due to the present state of political affairs!' A similar reference to the importation of bar-iron from England to the United States, 1810, serves, with many other such examples, to illustrate the reversal of the economic interdependence of the two countries in the intervening century and a half.

Contributions under the heading 'Intelligence' comprise many news items which will be read, even today, with considerable interest. The eruption of Vesuvius in September 1810 is graphically reported. Meteoric falls in France and Russia, 1810 and 1811, are catalogued with accuracy and William Meade M.D. gives us such an enthusiastic account of his discoveries concerning 'Elastic Marble' that one's fingers itch to repeat the experiment.

This edition of the Journal is ably supported by Professor John C. Greene's biographical account of Archibald Bruce, whose premature death at the age of forty-one cannot but be lamented by anyone who reads of his valiant attempts to establish an American Mineralogical Journal.

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