## VI.—Brief Notices.

1. New Periodical.—The first volume of the Mémoires de l'Institut Géologique de l'Université de Louvain, published under the editorship of Henry de Dorlodot, has recently appeared. A quarto, printed in large type and well illustrated, it makes an imposing volume. It contains three papers: Asselbergs, "Le Dévonien inférieur du Sud-Est de l'Ardenne Belge"; Salée, "La groupe des Clisiophyllides"; and Wong Wen-Hao, "La Porphyrite quartzifère de Lessines." Other volumes will appear according to material in hand.

2. Triassic Fauna of India.—Diener has published in *Palæontologia Indica* (n.s., vol. v, No. 1, 1913) a memoir on the Triassic Faunæ [*sic*] of Kashmir found by Middlemiss in 1908 and 1909. This fills up a gap in the Indian series, and provides many additional forms for comparison and study. A full description of the stratigraphy was given by Middlemiss in his memoir on the Silurian-Trias of Kashmir in the Records Geol. Surv. India, vol. xl, 1910.

3. New Zealand.—The geology of the Aroha subdivision of Hauraki, New Zealand, forcibly brings to notice how much detailed work remains yet to be done before we can form definite maps of the country. This is a large quarto by Messrs. J. Henderson and J. A. Bartrum, and forms No. 16 Bull. N.Z. Dept. of Mines, Geol. Surv. Branch, 1913. Dealing with Climate, Flora, Fauna, Population, Industries, and Geography as well as Rainfall, this memoir though called geological is quite comprehensive in its view. Previous literature is carefully listed and the views of previous writers properly attended to, and the authors throw the whole of the sedimentary rocks into Jura-Trias with the exception of the various 'Recent Deposits'. The large series of Andesites, Dacites, and Rhyolites are described, and much attention is naturally paid to the mining portion of the area. A chapter on Economics closes the Bulletin, which is accompanied with several clearly printed geological maps.

4. Florida and other Coral-reef Tracts.—Dr. T. W. Vaughan having worked for some years on the Floridian Plateau and included in his observation the Bahamas, Marquesas, and Tortugas has issued in the Journ. Washington Acad. Sci., vol. iv, 1914, a "Sketch of the Geological History of the Florida Coral-reef Tract and Comparisons with other Coral-reef Areas". He seems to believe that the final subsidence occurred after uplift following the close of the Pliocene, and notes that Pleistocene terraces rise to 600 feet in Cuba and 1,000 feet in Barbadoes. The Pleistocene barrier reef on Key Vaca showed 105 feet by boring.

5. Mud Lumps.—So far as is known the 'mud lumps' of the Mississippi delta are peculiar to that river. The name of 'mud lump' has been applied to large swellings or upheavals of tough bluish-grey clay in the territory within a mile or two of each of the mouths of the Mississippi. Many of these mud lumps rise just offshore and form islands having a surface extent of an acre or more and a height of 5 or 10 feet, but some do not reach the water surface. They rise and subside at irregular rates, some suddenly, and constant vigilance is necessary to keep charts of

these waters properly corrected. Mr. E. W. Shaw has spent some time studying these features, and the result of his work will be found in Professional Paper 85 B, Dept. Interior, United States Geological Survey, 1913. At most this paper professes to be a brief summary, but the author's observation lead him to state "the facts that the mud lumps are by far the thickest bodies of clay found in the Delta and that the clay is overlain and underlain by materials similar to those found elsewhere throughout the lower end of the Delta suggest that they are produced by a squeezing of the soft layers and an accumulation of clay from such layers in places where the pressure is less strong, and that the lumps are not upheaved by any such force as volcanism or by pressure from the accumulation of salt, sulphur, or gas below the surface".

6. New York State.—So many scattered papers have appeared on the geology of parts of New York State that it is a boon to find that William J. Miller has thrown the whole into a comprehensive and readable general account, clearly written and admirably supplied with maps and illustrations. The 130 pages are divided into Introduction, Physiographic Provinces, Structure and Drainage, Pre-Cambric, Palæozoic, Mesozoic and Cainozoic History, Appendix, and Bibliography. It forms Bull. 168 of the New York State Museum, 1913 (1914), and is issued at 40 cents.

7. Saratoga Springs.—In 1912 J. F. Kemp wrote a report on the springs themselves, and now Messrs. Cushing and Ruedemann have issued a memoir on the district. The rocks are Pre-Cambrian, Cambrian, Ordovician, and Pleistocene (Glacial), and a general description with lists of fossils is given. Several plates show that remarkable Cambrian structure known as *Cryptozoon proliferum* first described by James Hall. The relation of the geology of the area to Burgoyne's campaign forms an interesting, if unusual, chapter in a geological memoir.

## REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

### Geological Society of London.

*May* 13, 1914.—Dr. A. Smith Woodward, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The President mentioned that, on the proposition of Mr. R. H. Tiddeman, President of the Yorkshire Geological Society, a conference would be held in Leeds next autumn to discuss thoroughly the Glacial phenomena of the North of England.

Mr. John Parkinson exhibited (*a*) a few specimens of the old lacustrine beds from the neighbourhood of Lake Magadi, on the borders of British and German East Africa; and (*b*) specimens of soda and silica from the lake itself. The former consist of unconsolidated ash, fine silts with *Planorbis*, and diatomite. These beds in places are probably over 100 feet thick. With the soda is associated silica, which fringes some fault-scarps and forms narrow ridges in the lake itself.