

is less familiar and a paper may suffer harm from unstudied remarks. Indeed, the value of the Quarterly Journal may be lessened by the insertion of such criticisms, which the Editor can hardly in fairness eliminate.

My suggestion is that the publication of the discussions should be limited to the Proceedings. The papers published in the Journal, usually the result of years of work, would not then suffer by juxtaposition with remarks composed at a few minutes' notice, and the Proceedings would have a more lasting value. Personally, I should like to see their interest and value still further increased (and the bulk of the Journal diminished) by the inclusion in the Proceedings of the President's address, the Report of the Council, etc.

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#### THE PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an error in the printed report of an address I delivered to the Geologists' Association last February on "The Centenary of the Geological Society", which I shall be glad if you will allow me to correct. On p. 369 of the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, vol. xx, the statement occurs: "Since Forbes's day no President has been elected under 50, with the exception of Dr. Marr, who was 47." This should read as follows: "Since Forbes's day no President has been elected under 40, and during the last twenty years none under 50, with the exception of Dr. Marr, who was 47." The mistake arose through a line being dropped in transcribing my notes, and it escaped attention while passing through the press. As a matter of fact, there were seven Presidents of the Society under 50 between Forbes and Dr. Marr, viz., Hamilton (first term), Sharpe, Ramsay, Smyth, Huxley, the Duke of Argyll, and Professor Judd. While on this subject I may note that the oldest President was Leonard Horner, who when elected for his second term was 75.

Perhaps I may also be allowed to remind your readers that the recent election of Sir Archibald Geikie to the Presidential Chair of the Royal Society adds a third name to those I have mentioned on the above-quoted page of my address (Lord Northampton and Huxley) who have served as Presidents both of the Royal and Geological Societies.

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#### THE BURNING CLIFF NEAR LYME REGIS.

SIR,—Now that the spontaneous combustion at the Lyme Regis end of Black Ven has been mentioned in your pages, I beg to be allowed to point out a possible source of misconception to visitant geologists as to the extent of the burning. But first let me make it clear that my statement is only hearsay, and may be mere gossip; for