

Professor Fearnside states that: "A good many of the essays were written and published in a technical journal when the author was Principal of the Mineral Resources Department of the Imperial Institute, and Head of the Commodities Intelligence Section of the Ministry of Economic Warfare. The information selected from official files is tersely put . . ." This might be interpreted as meaning that while I occupied an official position I used official records for private purposes. This was not the case. Actually, none of the essays was written until after I retired from my official position in May, 1946, and the assistance I received later from the Mineral Resources Department of the Imperial Institute was such as is available to any member of the public wishing to use their Information Service, which includes a good technical index and reference library. I do not think that this Service is sufficiently well known.

As indicated in the Preface, all the articles as published between August, 1946, and February, 1949, were revised and considerably enlarged before publication in book form with additional chapters.

During my long association with mineral development work, however, I was fortunate to make contact with a large number of experts engaged in the chemical and mining industries who, after my retirement, kindly supplied much valuable up-to-date information for inclusion in my book. In fact, over thirty of the chapters were "vetted" by technical experts in this country and the U.S.A.

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PROPOSED NEOTYPE FOR *PLEUROTOMARIA ANGLICA*
(J. SOWERBY)

SIR,—I should be glad if you would allow me to announce in your columns my intention (failing the receipt of information as to the whereabouts of the two figured syntypes) of designating and figuring a neotype of the species *Trochus similis* J. Sowerby (1816, *Mineral Conchology*, 2, pl. 142), the name of which was altered to *Trochus anglicus* in the Corrigenda in the same volume; this species has long been referred to the genus *Pleurotomaria*. The syntypes are not in any institution known to me to possess Sowerby types, but could conceivably have found their way to a provincial museum or teaching collection. Sowerby did not state who sent them to him, or from which of four localities mentioned in his text they came, but it is most probable that the larger specimen (the other consisted merely of the external and internal moulds of a shell) came from the Middle Lias of White Lackington Park, near Ilminster; in which case it was presumably collected (as were other specimens from this locality described by Sowerby) by E. Strangeways or Strangeways, after whom *Ammonites strangewaysi* was named. I cannot say if E. Strangeways was connected with the Fox-Strangeways family.

I should be most grateful for any information about the missing specimens or the present whereabouts of the E. Strangeways Collection, as it is, of course, essential that every effort should be made to trace original types before having recourse to the procedure for designating neotypes decided upon at the 1953 International Congress of Zoology at Copenhagen.

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VOL. XCI.—NO 5.

31