

AN APPEAL TO FIELD PARTIES.

SIR,—If you will allow me, I should like to call the attention of geologists to the danger there is lest many of the interesting sections in this district (Church Stretton) may become unavailable for study : and this in two ways. First, because there is a rising discontent among the farmers at the way in which geological parties wander across the country, breaking down fences, leaving gates open, walking over growing crops ; and also at the way they leave stones about on the ground near exposures or brook courses, to the detriment of scythes and machines ; much of this is done before the grass or fern is grown, and the stones become hidden, to the damage of any tool that may come across them. Open gates and broken fences lead to animals straying, to loss of time, and to expense, while the damage to both mowing machines and scythes involves delay and sometimes the loss of the opportunity that has come of harvesting a crop. The farmers have been so good in allowing geological access to their land that it is only reasonable that they should have much consideration.

The second point that I would mention is the destruction or obliteration of faces of rock by indiscriminate hacking. Nature herself obscures the exposures all too soon. Geological students should, in my opinion, always make a point of dealing gently with described sections, and of clearing up the debris of their hammer work.

Other students are coming to the same exposures in the future, and should be allowed equal opportunity of seeing the facts that have become apparent to their predecessors.

I would add that leave for passing over fields may be readily obtained and, in my own experience of over forty years, has only once been refused, even then the difficulty was peaceably and happily arranged later.

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CHURCH STRETTON.
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