

3. A presumably long period of inactivity was followed by violent explosions destroying the summit of the cone, and from this crater (smaller than the present one) vast lava-flows of a very fluid basalt (crowded with phenocrysts of labradorite, pale-green augite, and some olivine) flooded the country and filled up the Bitlis and Akhlat valleys, which have since then been eroded a little below their former depth. The Sheikh Ora crater of basic tuff (now breached by Lake Van) probably belongs to this period.

4. Further explosions widened the crater, in which a large lake was formed, while the eastern half of the crater became filled by a succession of outflows of augite-rhyolite, in which numerous blow-holes were drilled, bringing to the surface large blocks of basaltic agglomerate and also affording sections showing the transition downwards from obsidian, spherulitic obsidian, and spherulitic rhyolite to banded augite-rhyolite (with sanidine and green augite in a micropœcilitic ground-mass).

5. The last eruption was recorded in 1441 by a contemporary Armenian chronicler, and resulted in the extrusion of a very viscous augite-rhyolite along a north-to-south zone of weakness, both inside the Nimrud crater, where it separated off part of the large lake to form the shallow, so-called "hot lake", and also to the north of Nimrud, where it rose up fissures and in a small crater.

6. A violent earthquake in 1881, which destroyed the village of Teghurt, at the eastern base of the crater wall, was the last sign of activity; but earthquakes are still frequent in the Plain of Mush, at the western foot of the Nimrud Dagh, and recent fault-scarps are clearly visible along the borders of this faulted depression.

The speaker mentioned that he had presented his model of the crater to the Museum of Practical Geology (Jermyn Street) and the rocks and slides to the British Museum (Natural History), where his fossils from Armenia are already preserved.¹

A short discussion followed, and the thanks of the Fellows present were accorded to Dr. Oswald for his lecture.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COAL IN THE SILURIAN AT PRESTEIGN.

SIR,—Mr. Cantrill's article in the November number of this Magazine on the boring for coal in Silurian and Longmyndian rocks at Presteign (pp. 481–92) is interesting in throwing light upon one of the most flagrant examples of the ignoring of geological evidence in exploits of this nature. As there must have been some grounds for the impression in the locality that coal existed there,

¹ Lantern-slides of many unpublished photographs and drawings of the Nimrud crater and its surroundings, a model coloured geologically (scale, 1 inch = 1 mile), and a series of rock-specimens and rock-sections were exhibited by Dr. Oswald in illustration of his lecture. A Geological Survey map of the Maclean Umtata district, Cape Province, Sheet 27, scale 3.75 miles = 1 inch, 1917 (presented by the Geological Survey of the Union of South Africa), was also exhibited.



Yours very truly
Edward Hull

without which local money probably would not have been forthcoming, I may mention that on a visit to the section last August, with Professor Garwood (whose excellent conjoint paper with Miss Good-year, read at the Geological Society on June 6, and published in abstract in the Proceedings on June 13, 1917, has been overlooked by Mr. Cantrill in his account of work on the district), we learnt from an old quarryman, whose memory reached back many years, that it had been the custom in slack times to cart coal from the Clee Hills for lime-burning. In order to preserve the coal it was necessary to bury it, often in considerable quantities. Relics of these hoards are occasionally met with, and, as their history has been generally forgotten, it is very likely that these chance finds gave rise to the idea that coal-bearing beds exist in the locality.

W. W. WATTS.

HILLSIDE, LANGLEY PARK,
SUTTON, SURREY.
November 12, 1917.

OBITUARY.

PROFESSOR EDWARD HULL, F.R.S.

(WITH A PORTRAIT, PLATE XXXV.)

BORN MAY 21, 1829.

DIED OCTOBER 18, 1917.

By the death of Edward Hull, in the 89th year of his age, another of the links has been broken which connect the geologists of to-day with those of the earlier half of last century. He was born in Antrim, and came of a stock that had been settled in Ireland for at least four generations. Educated at Trinity College, Dublin, he took his degree in Arts there. It was there, also, that he was inspired with a strong bent towards geology by the prelections of Professor Thomas Oldham. That eminent man gave him a letter of recommendation to Sir Henry De la Beche, Director-General of the Geological Survey, who without loss of time found a place for him in 1850 on his staff. From the time when Hull began field-work by running sections in North Wales under J. B. Jukes, he continued for seventeen years to be employed in England, first mapping tracts in Gloucestershire and the upper parts of the Thames Valley, and then in the coal-fields of Cheshire and Lancashire. During the winter months, when the members of the staff, quitting the field, repaired to London for indoor work in the office, Hull gained the good-will of his colleagues by his imperturbable good-nature, which, in sport, they would sometimes tax to its utmost limit. But he seemed never to bear any of them a grudge, taking it all as part of the routine of Survey life. They came to recognize that beneath his foibles of manner there lay a kindly heart, ever ready to respond to kindness.

In 1867, on the separation of the Geological Survey of Scotland as a special branch, Hull's good service was rewarded by his being