

Following the extraction of about five million tons of ore in fifty years, haematite mining in and about Dean Forest has been a dying industry since the beginning of this century. The authors' emphatic conclusion "that the [mineralizing] solutions came from above appears to be beyond reasonable doubt" will not revive it, nor can it encourage deep prospecting underneath the coalfield. These geologists with experience of Cumberland conditions have recognized that in South Wales the Trias is banked against steep cliffs so that "the Keuper was either not deposited over the Forest of Dean, or was deposited as a very thin bed from which it would be impossible to derive large bodies of haematite". For the supply of iron solutions they therefore look, as did Professor O. T. Jones in 1931, to the pre-Trias weathered surface of Hercynian mountains. Ferruginous laterite is a common type of regolith in semitropical monsoon climates; but how, from pyrite and ferrous salts in Coal Measures or other Carboniferous rocks, soluble iron salts can be brought down to cracks and fissures below the land surface of the unconformity, or (if brought down) how they could react with and replace by monohydrate haematite (almost free from phosphorus, sulphur and alumina) not only crazy limestone and sandy dolomite of the Lower Carboniferous Series, but also the quartz grains of massive sandstones of the Pennant Coal Measures, does not yet appear. Sibly, in the Introduction to his 1919 Memoir, wrote the ore "occurs in masses of irregular shape which were formed by processes of metasomatic replacement, that took place long after the consolidation of the enclosing rock", and in Chapter 9 concluded "the process of ore formation obviously involved a permeation so complete that the constituent grains of the rock could be attacked from the minute interstitial spaces". By 1943 we have made but little further progress in this argument.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

CLOUGH MEMORIAL RESEARCH FUND

This fund was instituted in 1935 for the purpose of encouraging geological research in Scotland and the North of England. The North of England is defined as comprising the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, Westmorland, and Yorkshire. Under the terms of the administration of the fund a sum of approximately £30 is available annually.

Applications for grants for the period 1st April, 1943, to 31st March, 1944, are invited. Applications should state:—

1. The nature of the research to be undertaken.
2. The amount of grant desired.
3. The specific purpose for which the grant will be used, e.g. travelling expenses, maintenance in the field, excavation of critical sections, etc.
4. Whether any other grant-in-aid has been obtained or applied for.

Applications must be in the hands of the Secretary, Clough Research Fund Committee, Edinburgh Geological Society, Synod Hall, Edinburgh, not later than 1st March, 1943.