

trouble over the spelling of names would have been avoided had the first proposer of any name published its derivation.

F. A. BATHER.

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A GEOLOGICAL REGISTRATION BUREAU.

SIR,—The excellent suggestion in the Editorial Notes of the April number of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE that the latter should start a bureau for the registration of subjects of research is one which will be welcomed, I think, by all workers. One learns to take almost for granted the delightful and almost world-wide spirit of *camaraderie* amongst geologists and the avoidance of “unnecessary friction” is perhaps a minor advantage compared with others. In the course of one’s travels one is almost certain to accumulate a miscellaneous assortment of material and information which one would be only too willing to pass on to others to whom it is of value—were their identity known. I can cite two or three examples from my own personal experience simply within the brief space of the last two years which may serve to illustrate—without comment—the useful possibilities of such a registration scheme. In one case a chance meeting at the Annual *Conversazione* of the Geologists’ Association placed much valuable information and material in the hands of myself and my collaborator in connexion with some work on the Ordovician of Central Wales; in a second case unpublished and highly relevant data were forwarded to me as a sequel to the *reading* of a paper—which had to be extended accordingly before publication; in yet a third case some research on the Devonian was well advanced before I became aware of other work proceeding along similar lines. One might even be spared the intense mental anxiety caused by the appearance of someone else’s hammer-marks in one’s most treasured spots!

L. DUDLEY STAMP.