

and if it holds out real promise of maintaining the character and quality of its first issue. The flood of publications, carrying in their titles the words "Progress", "Advances" or "Reviews", which has appeared in recent years has been a mixed blessing. Potentially they represent a contribution to the solution of the communication problem for, by collecting together recent work in a given field, they enable the young research student, or the busy worker in an adjacent field, to get a broad view of a subject and an entrée into its literature. Unfortunately not all such publications succeed. Too many review articles are thrown together hurriedly and have the appearance of an undigested conglomeration of abstracts. Worse still, they are frequently incomplete and uncritical so that they present a distorted picture of the state of a subject. It is therefore of prime importance that each new review journal should have a strong team of editors and should commission articles from authors who are not only authorities in their own fields, but also can bring both critical comment and a balanced judgment to their work.

*Advances in Colloid and Interface Science* is one of the few recent ventures which I welcome with enthusiasm. It has a strong board of editors—just three of them: Overbeek, Prins and Zettlemoyer. Their names do not have to be backed up by a parade of dozens of others forming the so-called "Editorial Advisory Board". By adopting the policy of quarterly publication, with a small number of papers in each issue, it is hoped to achieve rapid publication and to enable the purchaser to acquire articles which interest him without too much material which lies outside his field. The former objective is worth achieving, for in many annual publications the period between writing and publication is often so long that the reviews are no longer up to date. It is, however, difficult to see how the second objective can be achieved unless each quarterly issue can be bought separately—and this is not mentioned in the subscription arrangements.

The first issue contains two contributions: "The Physical Adsorption of Gases by Solids" by W. A. Steele (seventy-five pages); and "La Structure des Solutions Concentrées de Savon" by A. Skoulis (thirty-one pages). Each is an authoritative, comprehensive and critical review. Each will, it is predicted, be read extensively and, to use the words of the editorial preface, they will represent "important plateaus of progress" in their respective fields.

The editors also comment that "Previous attempts . . . (to set up similar series) . . . were well received, but for one reason or another faded away after a time". Let us hope that the present venture will succeed in maintaining its initial promise.

D. H. EVERETT

Pont Erwyd region to the north; there he found the germ of the notion, later to be elaborated, of the Central Wales Syncline or basin. To further his work of correlating the graptolitic with the shelly Llandovery strata, he started to apply finer discrimination than was fashionable in Britain to the recognition of brachiopod species. The purpose of this was to enable brachiopods to do work similar to graptolites in helping to identify faunal breaks and the place in a rock-sequence of isolated rock outcrops; meanwhile he was always conscious of field indications of breaks in the stratal succession.

Subsequently he interpreted the structure and rock succession in the type Llandovery area. If the geology of the Central Wales area shown in Stanford's 1904 *Geological Atlas* is compared with the map accompanying Jones's 1938 presidential address to the Geological Society, dealing with the evolution of a geosyncline, it is easy to see the contribution of knowledge produced either by Jones himself or by his students, including W. J. Pugh, or by his second generation students—those of Pugh, including K. A. Davies. The information gained concerning the shelly content of the British strata, more recently enlarged by Alwyn Williams, has enabled the Llandovery Series to be appreciated as a standard readily available for comparison elsewhere in the world, in contrast to the position in 1925 when Jones wrote an apologia concerning difficulties of correlating the Ordovician-Silurian boundary in Britain with that in North America.

A keen believer in the value of geological mapping and of an appreciation of the various manifestations of sedimentation, in 1937 he drew attention to the presence of slumping phenomena in the Silurian rocks of north-east Wales; and in 1944, from studies of compaction in muddy sediments by A. W. Skempton, Jones deduced reasons for slumped pelitic beds having rugged surfaces with strong ridges. He took pains to draw the attention of geologists to the application of physical methods to geological problems, and in his 1937 address to the Geological Society, on exploration of the Earth's crust, including the continental shelf and the ocean floors, he urged geologists to pay more heed to the operations of geophysicists—advice which is now as timely as it was then.

Jones made substantial contributions to the study of the basal Millstone Grit unconformity, roof support in coalmining, volatilization of coal, the distribution of lead and zinc ores in Central Wales and the geomorphology of Central Wales, in particular to knowledge of the evolution of the Towy and Teifi drainage systems.

Jones left the Geological Survey in 1910 to take the geology chair at Aberystwyth at a time when the Survey was moving its field work from South Wales to other areas. He was a joint author of the Haverfordwest and Milford Haven official one-inch maps and explanatory memoirs. In 1919 he became professor of geology at Manchester University, where he stayed until 1930 when he succeeded Marr as Woodwardian professor at Cambridge, from where he retired in 1943, but not from geology. He produced further papers, about fourteen in sole authorship and another five in co-authorship with Sir William Pugh, dealing with the remarkable phenomena shown by the Ordovician sedimentary and later igneous rocks in the Builth and Llandrindod Wells area. Problems of underground water supply also interested him and as recently as 1961 he addressed the British Association on those topics.

Jones was President of the Geological Society from 1936 to 1938 and again in 1951, and Foreign Secretary from 1948 to 1964; the Society awarded him its Lyell Medal in 1926 and Wollaston Medal in 1945. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1926 and served two periods on its council, receiving a Royal Medal in 1956. He was an honorary LL.D. of the University of Wales and a foreign correspondent of the Geological Society of America, the Paleontological Society of America and the Belgian Geological Society.

C. J. STUBBLEFIELD

## OBITUARIES

### Professor O. T. Jones

PROFESSOR OWEN THOMAS JONES died on May 5 at Cambridge at the age of 89. Jones was outstanding as a geologist with wide interests; his shrewd insight made him a lively informative contributor to almost every aspect of geology, but his most spectacular achievement was his unravelling of the geology of Central Wales. After graduating at University College, Aberystwyth, in physics, he proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, to study geology and to take first class honours in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos. He then joined, in 1903, the team mapping the western end of the South Wales Coalfield and its neighbouring rocks for the Geological Survey of Great Britain. Inspired by J. E. Marr's Cambridge teaching, he was specially interested in the shelly rocks encompassing the Ordovician-Silurian boundary. In his holidays he studied rocks of generally similar age, but carrying graptolites instead of shells, in the Plynlimon-