

it necessary to maintain a geological professor. For many years, however, he taught the relations of geology to topography, to questions of sanitation, and water-supply. To such matters, often of vital importance to an army in the field, Professor W. W. Watts has recently drawn attention, urging especially the military importance of acquiring a good 'eye for a country.'<sup>1</sup>

Naval men have not devoted so much attention to geology; perhaps, as General C. A. McMahon once remarked, because it has always been their duty to try and avoid rocks.

Nevertheless Sir John Franklin served on the Council in 1830-31; and he had a few years previously taken his first lessons in geology from Fitton and Webster, at the Society's Museum. Captain F. Marryat, R.N., became a member of the Society in 1817, but resigned five years later. He had meanwhile been elected F.R.S., but is no doubt better known as the author of 'Peter Simple' and 'Mr. Midshipman Easy.' Captain (afterwards Rear-Admiral Sir Francis) Beaufort, the distinguished hydrographer, was early elected an honorary member of the Geological Society. These Officers, however, made no geological communications to the Society.

A notable exception should be mentioned, in Captain (afterwards Vice-Admiral) Thomas Abel Brimage Spratt (1811-88), who was a member of Council in 1866-67. He served on board the 'Beacon' during the years 1841-43, when Edward Forbes was naturalist, and together they studied the bathymetrical distribution of marine life. Captain Spratt brought before us geological observations on some of the islands and shores of the Mediterranean and on the delta of the Nile. To him we owe the discovery of the remains of the pigmy elephant in Malta. His 'Travels and Researches in Crete' were published in 1865.

Fifty years ago Sir Archibald Geikie communicated to the Geological Society his first paper, on the geology of

<sup>1</sup> Address to Geol. Section, Brit. Assoc. Southport, 1903.