

its scope in the history of geology. He went out again in search of data which rendered a second edition necessary as early as 1817.

TAKEN TO BE LUNATIC

In after-life he often recollected with pleasure his experiences in this pioneer survey and beheld with unmixed pleasure the progress of geology in America, state after state arranging geological survey on a permanent official basis. When travelling in some remote districts, the illiterate inhabitants seeing Maclure, engaged in breaking the rocks with his hammer, supposed him to be a lunatic who had escaped from confinement; and on one occasion, as he drew near a public house, the inmates, being informed of his approach, took refuge indoors, and closing the entrance held a parley from the windows, until they were at length convinced that the stranger could be safely admitted. In this work he had to stand much privation and fatigue and his power of endurance he used to attribute chiefly to the undeviating simplicity of his diet "the regimen of which demanded nothing but water and a very small quantity of the most common food".

IDENTIFICATION WITH SCIENCE

This amateur geologist gave himself up entirely to science and education as he advanced

in years. He became a foundation member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (1812) and was its president from December 1817 to the end of his life. He personally supervised the publication of its *Journal*, provided it with a building at a cost of 20,000 dollars from his own private funds and transferred to it his private library and museum. His urge to encourage adult education was profound. He founded the New Harmony Working Men's Institute in 1838 and by his will provided for the payment of 500 dollars to any club of labourers which should establish a library of 100 volumes.

HIS END

Maclure spent the last years of his life in Mexico in the hope of aiding in the educational uplift of its people. In addition to the two geological maps, he published twelve papers, all on geology. His contributions on political, social and economic topics were collected and published (1837) in two volumes as *Opinions on various subjects, dedicated to the industrious producers*.

On his way from Mexico to the United States, on the serious failure of his health in 1839, he died at the village of San Angel, near the City of Mexico, March 23, 1840.

S. R. RANGANATHAN.

SEISMOLOGICAL NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 1940

DURING the month of February 1940 ten slight and one moderate shock were recorded by the Colaba seismographs as against four

slight and one moderate shocks recorded during the same month in 1939. Details for February 1940 are given in the following table:—

Date	Intensity of the shock	Time of origin I. S. T.	Epicentral distance from Bombay	Co-ordinates of the epicentre (tentative)	Depth of focus (miles)	Remarks
1940		H. M. S.	(miles)			
Feb. 7	Moderate	22 36 4	5640	55°N., 178°E. (Bering Sea)	normal	
" 8	Slight	20 45 15	1210	Hindukush mountains	125?	
" 13	Slight	8 55 54	1270	..	..
	Slight	17 16 25	1395	..	..	Felt severely in Shillong
	Slight	18 56 31	1250	..	..
" 16	Slight	6 36 46	1400	..	..
" 20	Slight	7 48 04	6900	In the region of New Hebrides Islands in the Pacific.	110-125	
" 20	Slight	18 24 42	3950	..	..
" 22	Slight	19 0 57	3130	..	..
" 24	Slight	17 30 11	4890	..	..
" 29	Slight	21 37 46	3090.	..	..

The Colaba Observatory,
Bombay,
March 6, 1940.