

of a mountain of white marble. Houses and enclosure walls were all built of the gleaming stone, and even the main road was mended with marble and lay dazzling in the sun.

But uniformity is invading the villages. New houses rise up with tiled roofs and characterless fronts, like houses anywhere, and soon differences of race or religion will no longer be discernible in their architecture.

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I worked out my scheme of the different types of houses before consulting Cvijic's valuable monograph on the Balkan Peninsula. I found that my classification of the various types has followed very similar lines, though it is naturally much less detailed.

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## THE SOILS OF BRITAIN AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION.\*

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I.—E. M. CROWTHER.

AFTER picking two geographers and one pedologist for this discussion on "Soils in Geography," your Committee restored the balance by selecting another soils man as Chairman. All three paper-readers are well known as masters of their respective branches, and there is no need for me to undertake any introductions. I may, however, be allowed to say how much we on the soil side welcome such discussions, for geographers and pedologists have much to learn from each other. We must admit that, until fairly recently, there was a certain frigidity between us. Some geographers, with their facility for producing maps on any conceivable subject, despair of getting suitably neat material from the soil surveyor, and I understand that some teachers of geography, thrilled by the success of their Land Utilisation Survey, are proposing to equip their scholars with soil augers in order to rush through their own soil maps. The soils of this country are too complex for such a method of attack to have any serious value beyond that of an educational exercise. I would suggest that the geographers should concentrate their attention on the utilisation of land rather than on the classification and mapping of soils as such. The soil surveyors in this country have done detailed work on a few sample areas, and have refrained from generalised mapping until they have much more knowledge of the soils.

One may say that soil science is still trying to work out an adequate philosophical basis. We have learnt that soils must be classified not by their immediate or potential agricultural value, but by some interpretation of the actual properties of the soils themselves. We now know that some of the extreme simplifications, as e.g., in terms of

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\* Summary of discussion held at the Annual Conference, 2nd January, 1936.