

KENNETH ARTHUR GEORGE SHIELLS was a graduate of King's College, University of Durham, who, after completing his doctorate, came to the University of Glasgow and was a member of staff in the Department of Geology from 1961. His particular interests were structural geology and palaeontology, but his general acquaintance with geology was very wide, and he had a discerning and critical mind that gave him an integrated concept of geology unusual in a man so young.

His structural studies in the Southern Uplands, carried out with Dr W. R. Dearman, produced highly novel results that threw new light both on structure and stratigraphy; and in a discriminating analysis of tectonic elements of different ages there was brought to light the possibility that some of the rocks and structures in the Southern Uplands had close analogies with the Dalradian suite and might be of Dalradian age. In latter years he was absorbed in studies of Carboniferous fossils, laying particular emphasis on the morphology and habits of productid brachiopods, and on the ecology of fossil assemblages in the Lower Limestone Group. His interpretation of the mode of life of *Productus* and its kind was both original and highly stimulating in the way it linked form to function; and his mechanical analysis of the operation of the brachiopod shell threw much light on posture and feeding habits. His work also enabled him to make comparative studies of productids of various species, which developed into descriptions of new kinds carried out to a depth and a comprehensiveness altogether unusual. His palaeoecological work on shelly lumachelles in the Dockra Limestone was approaching completion when he died, and promised to give new interpretations of the accumulations of beds in the Lower Limestone Group that hitherto

had been looked at only in a generalised way.* He was becoming an experienced and authoritative palaeontologist, the development of whose research would have enriched geology.

As a teacher he showed the greatest interest in teaching methods and the greatest concern for the well-being of the students in his charge. His thoughtful and constantly evolving approach to method much improved practice particularly in the laboratories, and greatly encouraged the interest and the confidence of students in the tasks expected of them.

He was drowned at the age of 31 in Loch Linnhe, during a storm that capsized his boat, on November 23, 1968. In a double disaster his wife was drowned with him; she was also a geologist, and participated actively in his work. Their deaths brought grief to their friends, and were the saddest of losses to geology.

T. NEVILLE GEORGE

*Data and papers relating to this research are housed in the Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow along with extensive collections. Some of these notes and raw data were edited and processed by Dr I. E. Penn and published in 1971 as "Notes on the geology of Trearne Quarry (Upper Viséan), Ayrshire and on the palaeoecology of its productid brachiopods" in the *Scottish Journal of Geology*, vol. 7, pp. 24-29.

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