

Editor's note

Since last year our journal has had a new editorial board, with the editor based in Trondheim and co-editors in Bergen, Oslo and Trondheim. A principal aim of the editors will be to try to maintain the traditional scope of the journal. However, technical and economic developments in recent years have presented the geological research front with new challenges and diverted many a geologist into new fields.

Since the opening of the North Sea oil fields, Norway has experienced a new and unique situation, with a surplus of energy in three different forms: oil/gas, coal (Svalbard) and hydroelectric power.

Internationally, the rights to exploitation of the ocean-floor deposits of heavy metals are still disputed. The big energy companies have expanded their fields of interest towards metallic ores and industrial minerals, an activity which is also notable in Norway. Prospecting on the Norwegian mainland is also being carried out by many of the companies that are active in the North Sea.

At the same time our traditional mining industry, directed mainly towards the base metals and iron ores, has serious problems. However, the search for new types of ore is proceeding

side-by-side with research on new methods of exploitation. In many countries of the world, government-directed studies of proven and potential mineral reserves have been completed over the last few years – recently in Sweden –, and in Norway a report of this type is being prepared.

The 100th anniversary of Charles Darwin's death is being celebrated this year. As a reminder of the 'Ape process' in Tennessee in 1925 and of later controversies in Scandinavia, the United States have just witnessed a law suit between Creationists and Evolutionists, with the teaching of biology in schools as the apple of discord. Norwegian specialists on heredity and palaeontology were this winter engaged in a mass-media debate on Darwin's theory of evolution and its place in today's research and teaching.

It would perhaps be too much to expect all these changes in trends of thought and activity to be reflected in the form of manuscripts submitted to our journal in the immediate future. In this number, however, we present the first article to appear in the NGT on a topic from the depths of North Sea geology – an article on bony fish fossils from the Paleocene.