

COAL

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Coal by James Tonge

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JAMES TONGE

COAL

The "Westminster" Series

COAL

COAL

BY

JAMES TONGE

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PREFACE

It is now many years since a Work on Coal was presented to the public, and since that time knowledge of its natural history and appreciation of its manifold uses have been increased.

Coal is indispensable to all civilised nations; it is not surprising therefore that the origin, position and extent of the seams have exercised the best thought and enquiry of geologists and prospectors; that its discovery and working have stimulated the skill and demanded the best energies of engineers, and the heroism and labours of innumerable miners; that its economical utilisation and application have been obtained in spite of years of necessary labour and research on the part of learned men in many branches of science.

This book, though dealing only with the first and last of the aspects of the subject thus suggested, should be interesting and instructive not only to students of various sciences, but to the whole of those people who, though proud of the high commercial position of this country, are unaware as to how greatly this is due to our Coal supplies.

As a rule descriptions of mining practice have been avoided, though a few subjects here included are dealt with in the author's "Principles and Practice of Coal Mining," published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

The latter book is intended particularly for students; the present work is of course written for a different public.

Some of the friends to whom I am indebted for advice and assistance and to whom thanks are now tendered are Mr. Bennett Brough, F.G.S., Mr. John Gerrard, H.M. Inspector of Mines, Mr. James Lomax, Petrologist, and Mr. Herbert Bolton, F.R.S.E.

JAMES TONGE.

WESTHOUGHTON,
October, 1907

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