

The Secretary,
The Institution of Civil Engineers.

DEAR SIR,

In view of its early date, the following account of landslides being brought about by seepage erosion may be of interest.

"The cliffs between Hythe and Lympne, which are between 50 and 60 feet high above the fields, which lie between them and the sea, exhibit a curious spectacle to the inquisitive philosopher. About six or seven feet beneath the top, we come to a thick strata of grey heavy stone, which they break in small pieces and burn for lime. . . . The lower part of the cliff is composed of a thick bed of sand, through which a fine clear water filtrates, and carrying with it some of the finer part of the sand, on which the heavy materials that lie near the top rest, often occasion large portions of the fields above to shoot down on those below, thereby covering the pasture at the bottom with rocks and rough materials, producing the appearance of an earthquake; . . ."

This "Note on the geology of the cliffs between Hythe and Lympne" appeared in the *Genius of Kent; or, County Miscellany* (pp. 207–208) for March 1793 (published at Canterbury) under the pen name "Amicus".

Yours faithfully,
J. N. HUTCHINSON.

Building Research Station,
Garston, Watford, Herts.
27 January, 1965.