

modern geologists found their speculations. They account for the varied composition of strata, by the diversity of the rocks from which they have been derived, and note the order in which the distinctive layers have been superimposed on each other, as affording an infallible criterion of relative age. And so they make out a classification and history, of which the trustworthiness depends on the certainty of the facts, and the soundness of the deductions. A principal importance attaches to the fossils: because some found in certain layers are not found in others, and their presence or absence in particular localities, furnishes large and varied subject of consideration, and widens the range of the teaching of nature to 'the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills.'

IGNEOUS ROCKS.

Thus far I have spoken of Aqueous Rocks, or rocks formed in water. Let me add a few remarks on IGNEOUS ROCKS, or those rocks which give evidence of the action of fire.

There is certainly known to be a vast amount of heat in the globe. Some consider it one ocean of fiery liquid, with a crust over it, which