

which De Saussure and Escher von der Linth had given of the grand crust movements that had inverted rock-strata and developed the fan-structure of the mountain-massives of the central chain. The bolder thoughts of these men escaped him.

In addition to the larger works on Alpine geology by Von Buch and Ebel, a number of smaller treatises on Alpine localities were contributed to mineralogical journals. Amongst these were papers by Italian geologists directing attention to the interesting geological phenomena in the Fassa Valley and Predazzo in South Tyrol; a description by Mohs of the Villach Alps; works by Charpentier and others on the Wallis Alps; and by several French geologists on the Maritime Alps and several parts of the Dauphiné.

*C. Italy.*—The interest of Italian geologists was early attracted to the richly fossiliferous Tertiary strata. Arduino's epoch-making works on the stratigraphical succession in the neighbourhood of Verona have been mentioned above (p. 37). The travelled Alberto Fortis (1741-1803), an Augustine monk, was an acute observer and a prolific writer on geological subjects. His works are for the most part descriptive of the Tertiary deposits and volcanic rocks in the Vicentine Alps; Monte Bolca, a locality long famous for its fossils, was thoroughly searched by Fortis, and he discovered several new localities of well-preserved fossils (Brendola, San Vito, Grancona).

Fortis compared the fossil fishes of Monte Bolca with existing species in the southern seas, and concluded that six or seven species were identical. This opinion was shared by Volta, in whose splendid monograph of the Monte Bolca fishes (1788) the number of fossil forms identical with living species is increased to one hundred and ten. Possibly the best contribution made to science by Fortis was his work on the geological structure of Dalmatia, and his account of the occurrence of nummulites at Bencovac and Sebenico, of bone breccias at Cherso, etc.

In regard to the origin of basalt and tuffs, Fortis was an extreme Volcanist; he even believed that the volcanic energy of the Vicentine area had raised the temperature of the Adriatic Sea to such a degree that tropical molluscs and fishes could then exist in it.