

a bladder and made a prominent hill which still endures.¹

Waters vary in temperature, some being cold during the day and warm at morning and evening. Others (accompanied with petroleum or inflammable gas) can set wood on fire. Some have a petrifying quality, and others have varying effects on the human body and mind.

Islands once floating have become fixed, like the ancient Ortygia which is now Delos, and the Symplegades, which once terrified the Argo, but are now anchored, and firmly defy the tempests.

Etna which now glows with its sulphurous furnaces will not always be a burning mountain, and there was a time before it began to burn. Whether the earth is an animal that lives and breathes forth flames from many vents; or winds pent up within the earth break out and cast up stones and flame until the caverns are emptied and cooled; or some bituminous mass has taken fire and burns until it dies away in faint fumes of yellow brimstone; a day will come when the fires within will die out for lack of fuel.

From this sketch of the knowledge possessed by the ancients regarding geological processes it appears that while some sound observations had been made and a certain amount of correct information had been gathered together, speculation as to the causes of things was much more cultivated than the patient collection and comparison of facts. The same fanciful

¹ An account of this eruption is given by Strabo (i, iii. 18) and its effects have been described by the late Professor Fouqué of Paris, *Compt. rend.* lxii. pp. 904, 1121, and by other later writers