

must have remained in that position for a long period, and that its effects were altogether distinct from those of the temporary Deluge of Noah. He wrote on the origin of springs, maintaining that they do not come from the sea, through subterranean passages in which they lose the saline constituents of sea-water—a belief that had survived from antiquity and was still defended as resting on scriptural evidence. He connected springs with the structure of the rocks through which they rise.<sup>1</sup>

To one other notable Italian writer, who appeared in the first half of the eighteenth century, reference may here be made. Anton-Lazzaro Moro (1687-1740) wrote a treatise *De' Crostacei e degli altri marini Corpi che si truovano su' Monti* (Venice, 1740). The grotesque speculations of Burnet and Woodward, which will be more particularly referred to on a later page, had already appeared in England and had found their way into the Continent. A large part of Moro's work is devoted to a destructive criticism of the cosmogonies of these authors. He then proceeds to discuss the possibility of explaining the position of fossil shells in the mountains by reference to the Noachian Deluge, and he dismisses this supposition as untenable. He next inquires in what manner the phenomenon can be explained from actual observations of natural processes. After giving an account of the uprising of a new volcanic island in the Greek Archipelago in the year 1707, of the appearance of Monte Nuovo near Naples in 1538, and of the

<sup>1</sup> Vallisneri's treatise *Dei Corpi marini che sui monti si trovano* was published at Venice in 1721, when its author was sixty years of age.