

## CHAPTER VII

HISTORY of the Doctrine of Geological Succession. Arduino,  
Lehmann, Füchsel, Werner.

IN the gradual growth of knowledge regarding the history of our globe, it is surprising how late men were in realising that this knowledge must be based not on mere speculation, but on patient investigation of what evidence can be gathered from the structure of the planet itself. Slowly and laboriously the truth was reached that the rocks which form the terrestrial crust bear witness to the passage, not of one or two, but of a whole series of revolutions, that these changes occupied vast intervals of time, and that while they varied indefinitely in their local effects from one region to another, they were but incidents in one vast onward march of development which embraced the whole globe within its influence. What we now know as the doctrine of geological succession, in other words, the history of the evolution of the earth, during a prolonged series of ages up to the present time, took shape with extreme slowness, each generation adding a little to the basis of fact and to the superstructure of inference.