

narrow slips, and lying parallel to the greatest rise of any long ridge of mountains ; and so, in fact, we find them."

Contrast this clear presentation of the tectonic structure of our mountains and continents with the confused and contradictory explanation of the same structure subsequently promulgated from Freiberg. Michell clearly realised that the rocks of the earth's crust had been laid down in a definite order, that they had been uplifted along the mountain axes, that they had been subsequently planed down, and that their present disposition in parallel bands was the result partly of the upheaval and partly of the denudation.

Another English observer, whose name may be mentioned here, is John Whitehurst (1713-1788) who published in 1778 an "Inquiry into the Original State and Formation of the Earth." This work was the last effort of the fantastic English School of Cosmogonists. Amid absurd speculations as to the condition of Chaos and other equally visionary topics, he wrote well on organic remains, and showed that he clearly grasped the stratigraphical succession of the formations in Derbyshire and other parts of England. "The strata invariably follow each other," he remarks, "as it were, in alphabetical order," and though they may not be alike in all parts of the earth, nevertheless, "in each particular part, how much soever they may differ, yet they follow each other in a regular succession."

While the stratigraphical sequence of the geological formations in England was thus partially realised by