

eighteenth century the structure of the Earth, its minerals, and organised remains, came to be studied more particularly, and from time to time other scientific societies were founded. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (established in 1739 as the Philosophical Society of Edinburgh) received its charter of incorporation in 1783; the Royal Irish Academy, instituted in 1785, was incorporated in 1786; and the Linnean Society, founded in 1788, was incorporated in 1802.

In the publications of these older societies will be found many important papers on subjects connected more or less directly with the history of geology. Among these the following may be mentioned :—

In the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society for 1684 :

An ingenious proposal for a new sort of maps of countries, together with tables of sands and clays, such as are chiefly found in the north parts of England. By Martin Lister, M.D.

In the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1719 and 1725 :

Observations on the different Strata of Earths and Minerals, more particularly such as are found in the Coal-mines of Great Britain. By John Strachey.

In the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1760 :

On the Cause and Phænomena of Earthquakes. By the Rev. John Michell (afterwards Woodwardian Professor at Cambridge).

Besides the publication of papers in its *Transactions*, the Royal Society contributed greatly to the advance of many branches of science by fostering experimental methods of research and by discourses on the progress of investigation. Robert Hooke (1635–1703), the Society's illustrious 'Curator of Experiments,' deserves to be had in honoured remembrance for the sagacity of the views on geological subjects which he expounded at the meetings. His 'Discourses of Earthquakes,'¹ published after his

¹ 'Discourses of Earthquakes, their Causes and Effects, and Histories of Several; to which are annexed, Physical Explications of Several of the Fables