

shire coal-field; Leonard Horner on the Malvern Hills; Parkinson on the London area; and Fitton on Dublin. William Phillips wrote on copper ore and the lodes of Cornwall; Marcet on a chalybeate spring at Niton, in the Isle of Wight; and W. H. Pepys, Count de Bournon, and Smithson Tennant dealt with sundry minerals. Papers on foreign geology were communicated by Macculloch on Heligoland; by the Hon. H. G. Bennet on Madeira; and by Dr. Nugent on the pitch lake of Trinidad, and the island of Montserrat.

While in most of these articles structural geology, lithology, and mineralogy were the absorbing topics, it is interesting to find that in the paper by James Parkinson, which was entitled 'Observations on Some of the Strata in the Neighbourhood of London, and on the Fossil Remains contained in them,' the author remarked, in a preliminary statement, that

'The study of fossil organised remains has hitherto been directed too exclusively to the consideration of the specimens themselves; and hence has been considered rather as an appendix to botany and zoology than as (what it really is) a very important branch of geological inquiry.' Referring to 'the formation and structure of the earth,' he said, 'To derive any information of consequence from them on these subjects, it is necessary that their examination should be connected with that of the several strata in which they are found.'

In a footnote he stated: 'This mode of conducting our inquiries was long since recommended by Mr. W. Smith, who first noticed that *certain fossils are peculiar to, and are only found lodged in, particular strata*; and who first ascertained the constancy in *the order of superposition, and the continuity of the strata of this island*.'

Parkinson further mentioned that—'Already have these examinations, thus carried on, taught us the following highly instructive facts. That exactly similar fossils are found in distant parts of the same stratum, not only where it traverses this island, but where it appears again on the opposite coast; that in strata of considerable comparative depth fossils are found, which are not discovered in any of the superincumbent beds;' and he added that—'These general facts lead us to hope that geology may derive considerable assistance from