In most of them, and notably in Lyell's 'Principles,' and in De la Beche's 'Researches in Theoretical Geology' (1834), a great deal of original information was incorporated. It is, however, significant to note a complaint of Lyell, that, on the Continent, he gained no priority for any original views or facts which had only appeared in his 'Principles' and 'Elements.'¹ The due recognition of personal work has ever been a source of anxiety to geologists, but the fact remains that Lyell did more than any other man in his time to advance the progress of geology, not only as the historian of the science, but also as an original observer. As remarked by Professor Bonney: 'The fame of his books causes his numerous papers to be overlooked.'²

At this period there was no professorship of Geology in London, and the subject was taught only in occasional courses of lectures, as at the Royal Institution. University College, established in 1828 as the 'University of London,'³ had no chair of Geology until 1841. Prestwich, who had entered the College during its first year, remarked that 'The only nominal instruction then in geology and mineralogy was to be had in three lectures by Dr. Turner at the end of his course of forty lectures on chemistry.' The organic side of the science was dealt with briefly by Dr. R. E. Grant and John Lindley. Both Turner and Grant had been pupils of Jameson at Edinburgh, and took considerable interest in geology.

Edward Turner (1796–1837) filled the office of secretary to the Geological Society for five years, and was afterwards vice-president. His early death removed a man of exceptional ability and one who was regarded as 'a delightful companion.' He did much to stimulate Prestwich's interest in science, and his pupil, when but 20 years of age, asked Turner to propose him as a Fellow of the Society.⁴

' ' Life, Letters, and Journals,' vol. ii. p. 107.

² 'Charles Lyell and Modern Geology,' 1901, p. 219.

⁸ It was dissociated from the University in 1836.

[•] 'Life and Letters of Sir Joseph Prestwich,' by Lady Prestwich, 1899, pp. 24, 25; Proc. Geol. Soc. ii. p. 627.