

Of the two volumes of the 'Silurian System' Fitton spoke in the highest terms, 'as a permanent contribution to our knowledge of the structure of a most interesting portion of our country;' and he remarked that 'No geological book that we know of gives so much information, with such a readable subordination of detail to general principles.'¹

Of the life of the Geological Society during these years we have glimpses from the records of Lyell:—

December 13 [14], 1831.—Dined at the Geological Society club. . . . A pleasant club. Stokes, Greenough, Buckland, Lord Cole, Broderip, and a few more. Murchison was pheasant-shooting in the country, but cut in for the meeting. A short paper on Springs, and another by Mr. [William] Hutton on the Whin Sill of Yorkshire, drew up Buckland, Greenough, Fitton, Murchison, and De la Beche, and as they seemed much disposed to go on for ever, Buckland speaking five times, but not once too often, I was glad to sit quiet.²

Discussions at the present day are perhaps attended with a greater amount of ceremony; but they form an attractive adjunct to most papers, and there are doubtless occasions when certain speakers might profitably address the members more than once, during a debate on an interesting controversial subject.

1832. 'February 3 [1].—Just returned from the Geological Society, having dined at the club, and since taken an active part in a debate, with Sedgwick, Conybeare, De la Beche, Fitton, Greenough, and others—which was prolonged unusually till half-past ten o'clock—"on the Old and New Red Sandstone," and other dryish subjects, which Adam made entertaining. The paper was by him. The attendance was quite splendid, very numerous, and all the best men there.' [The above refers to Sedgwick's paper. 'On the deposits overlying the Carboniferous series in the valley of the Eden, and on the north-western coasts of Cumberland and Lancashire,' read on February 1.]

1832. 'February 19 [17].—On Friday I went to the General Meeting and the Anniversary Dinner of the

¹ *Edinburgh Review*, vol. lxxiii. 1841, pp. 1-41.

² Lyell, 'Life, Letters, and Journals,' vol. i. 1881, p. 357.