

that a collection should be formed of economic minerals, building-stones, and other rocks employed for useful purposes. The proposal was favourably received by the Secretary of the Treasury, and by other influential persons, including Sir Robert Peel. A house belonging to the Crown, in Craig's Court, Charing Cross, was placed at the disposal of the Geological Survey, and the Museum of Economic Geology, as it was then called, was established in 1837, although not opened to the public until 1841. A laboratory was added; and Richard Phillips, F.R.S., was appointed chemist and curator (see p. 13). Two years later the Treasury gave their sanction to lectures being delivered on the practical applications of geology; but arrangements for these could not be made until the present Museum of Practical Geology was opened on November 6, 1851, when at the same time the 'School of Mines and of Science applied to the Arts' was founded.

In the meantime, in 1840, De la Beche had further established a Mining Record Office, for the purpose of collecting information respecting the distribution and produce of our mines, and for procuring plans and sections not only of modern workings, but also of abandoned mines. It was placed under the charge of T. B. Jordan, who was succeeded in 1845 by Robert Hunt.<sup>1</sup>

At the opening of the Museum and School of Mines in 1851, the following were the professors: Lyon Playfair, *Chemistry*; Edward Forbes, *Natural History*; Robert Hunt, *Mechanical Science*; John Percy, *Metallurgy*; A. C. Ramsay, *Geology*; and Warrington W. Smyth, *Mining and Mineralogy*.

Among the earliest students were Hilary Bauerman and H. F. Blanford, 1851-53, and W. T. Blanford, 1852-54.

Four years later (1855), on receiving the Wollaston Medal on behalf of De la Beche, Sir Roderick Murchison spoke of his success in thus founding 'the first palace ever

<sup>1</sup> Buckland, *Proc. Geol. Soc.* iii. p. 211; see also 'Inaugural Discourse,' by H. T. De la Beche, *Records of the School of Mines*, vol. i. part i. 1852, p. 1; and Sir A. Geikie, 'The Origin and History of the Survey and Museum,' *Summary of Progress of the Geological Survey for 1897, 1898*, pp. 2-30.