

Here, as in palæontology, advances of knowledge bring in shoals of new names, with which even the specialist finds it difficult to keep in touch. The 'New Rock Classification,' by Messrs. Whitman Cross, J. P. Iddings, L. V. Pirsson, and H. S. Washington, which emanated from Chicago in 1903, was the product, in part, of one of our foreign members and one foreign correspondent. In this a new mode of nomenclature has been drawn up with great care, in order to give a kind of quantitative estimate of the mineral ingredients of rocks :

Thus ferro-magnesian minerals are called femic, and, when dominant, dofemic ; from a variety of combinations we get such terms as docalcic, dosodic, domolic (dominant olivine), perolic (extremely rich in olivine), &c.

In reviewing this nomenclature Mr. Harker remarked that 'compositors and proof-readers will not be among those who welcome the new terminology.'<sup>1</sup>

Earthquakes, which during recent years have kept busy both Professor John Milne and Dr. Charles Davison, early attracted the attention of Robert Mallet (1810-81), whose 'Earthquake Catalogue' was published by the British Association in 1858. This famous work, together with his subsequent researches on volcanic energy, and kindred subjects, justified the Council, in 1877, in awarding to him the Wollaston Medal.

The Rev. O. Fisher, in a paper read before the Society in 1875, discussed Mallet's theory of volcanic energy ; and he dealt generally with this and other matters in his 'Physics of the Earth's Crust,' the first edition of which was published in 1881. Therein he spoke of the 'natural unwillingness among geologists to involve themselves in speculations concerning the cosmogony,' adding that 'we are obliged to form some theory on this question, if we would speculate on the constitution of the depths beneath

<sup>1</sup> *Geol. Mag.* 1903, p. 173 ; see also J. W. Evans, *Science Progress*, Oct. 1906.