

views and conclusions of the author can be readily ascertained.

Horner, in his Addresses of 1846 and 1861, referred to the difficulty of keeping up with the progress of geology (see p. 35). Lyell, again, on receiving the Wollaston Medal in 1866, remarked on his 'inability to keep pace with the ever-increasing rate at which geology is expanding, together with the numerous sciences which are so intimately connected with it.' Lamentations on this subject have become chronic.¹ During the interval there have been added forty volumes both of the *Quarterly Journal* and of the *Geological Magazine*, not to mention countless other serials and independent works.

In this great 'talus heap' of geological literature, as it has been perhaps somewhat irreverently called, the work of all authors is apt soon to be buried up and lost sight of. To remedy this state of things no individual Fellow of the Society has helped more than Mr. Whitaker, in numerous bibliographies of counties and special subjects, and in the *Geological Record*, which he commenced in 1874 and carried on until 1879—a work that ended in a compound volume for 1880–84, edited by W. Topley and C. D. Sherborn. J. F. Blake in 1890 began in his *Annals of British Geology* to give each year a critical digest of all papers and books on geology published in the United Kingdom; he aimed at making the work readable, but his critical remarks did not please everyone. The task proved too great for one man, and it ceased with the volume for 1893.

So long ago as 1844 and 1845 Ansted compiled for the Geological Society a bibliography of the books and maps published during those two years, but the effort, then regarded as a very laborious one, was not continued.² The Society, however, commenced in 1855 to provide a record of geological literature by printing not merely

¹ See 'The Founders of Geology,' by Sir A. Geikie, 2nd ed. 1905, p. 471.

² See *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* ii. 1846.