

cur," said the Professor, "in Transition or Grauwacke slate. The waved and concentric circular appearances *are the effects of crystallization*, whereas other curved and angular appearances seem to be connected with the mode of deposition of the strata, and may be traced either to inequalities of the fundamental rock, or to irregularities in the deposition of the strata themselves." We do not now expect so much from crystallization; nor, when we see fossils spread out on a vertical plane, do we try to believe that, in defiance of the law of gravitation, they had pasted themselves there of old, as one pastes prints upon a screen; but as a fossil theory may be in some instances scarce less curious than a fossil plant or animal, the use of the extract will, I trust, be forgiven me. About four years after the publication of Professor Jameson's work, the late Mr. Thomas Allen of this city read a very able paper before the Edinburgh Royal Society, on the Transition Rocks of Werner, in which we find reference made to their fossiliferous character in our southern Highlands. But there are no new localities given. Over the one discovery of Sir James Hall at Wrae Hill our Scotch geologists seem to have hibernated for more than forty years. In truth, the great controversy which then divided them into Plutonists and Neptunians seems to have operated unfavorably on the progress of general discovery. In looking over our book-shelves for some wanted volume, we soon come to find that we have eyes for only it, and that all the other volumes fail to attract notice or attention. And such seems to have been the case with not a few of our Scotch geologists; they went out to search among the shelves of that great geologic library in which the early histories of the globe are stored up, for whatever could be made to tell in favor of their own hypothesis, or to militate against that of their neighbors; and, engrossed by this one object, they seem to have been indifferently suited