

peculiar arrangement obtains in a still more marked degree. The organisms of a wide district of country are confined often to a single layer, occupying scarce half an inch, in a section thousands of feet in vertical extent. And such seems to be the arrangement among the ancient slates of the Pentlands. Mr. Maclaren found his fossils near Deerhope-foot, at the side of a small stream that falls into the North Esk; and he describes them, in the portion of his work devoted to the geology of the Pentland range, as of two kinds. In one, fragments of what seem minute trilobites are congregated together in thin layers; in the other, there are the distinctly marked impressions of what appear to be orthoceratites. I owe two of those Pentland fossils to the kindness of Mr. Maclaren. The one, apparently a portion of an orthoceratite, exhibits a side view of what seem to be five of the septa; the other greatly resembles that curious and still but imperfectly understood vegetable of the Coal Measures, *Sternbergia approximata*; but it is in all probability not a vegetable, but an animal organism, — very possibly an orthoceratite also. One of these specimens bears on the label the date of its discovery (7th of April 1834), — a date five years anterior to that of the publication of Mr. Maclaren's volume, and forty-two years posterior to the discovery of Sir James Hall. The fact that by much the greater part of half a century should have intervened between the first and second discoveries of organic remains in our Grauwackes, — for, waving the claim of Mr. Laidlaw, whose discovery seems never to have been recorded, and can now be associated with neither locality nor date, Mr. Maclaren's is decidedly the second, — is a fact of itself sufficient to show that our Scotch schools were in those days not zealously palæontological; and we know from other sources, that arguments were sought after within their precincts, with much more avidity than fossils. But the error