

Having gained the favourable notice of the famous brothers Jussieu, who gave renown to the botanical department of the Jardin des Plantes, he was allowed by his grandfather to choose a career that would afford scope for his ardour in science. Accordingly he became a doctor in medicine. Eventually he was attached to the suite of the Duke of Orleans, whom he accompanied in his travels, and of whose extensive natural history collections he became custodian. On the Duke's death he enjoyed from his son and successor a modest pension and a small lodging in the Palais Royal at Paris.

It was to botany that his earlier years of unwearied industry were mainly given. In the course of his botanical wanderings over France and other countries, he observed how frequently the distribution of plants is dependent upon the occurrence of certain minerals and rocks. He was led to trace this dependence from one district to another, and thus became more and more interested in what was then termed "mineralogy," until this subject engrossed by far the largest share of his thoughts and labours.

But Guettard was more than merely a mineralogist. Although the words "geology" and "geologist" did not come into use for half a century later, his writings show him to have been a geologist in the fullest sense of the word. He confined himself, however, to the duty of assiduous observation, and shunned the temptation to speculate. He studied rocks as well as minerals, and traced their distribution over the surface of Europe. He observed the action of the forces by which the surface of the land is modified,