

with which I may fitly close this sketch of Desmarest's career. "The Academy of Sciences saw in him, as it were, the monument of a bygone age, one of those old philosophers, now too few, who occupied only with science, did not waste themselves in the ambitions of the world, nor in rambling through too wide a range of study, men more envied than imitated, who have supplied us with that succession of octogenarians and nonagenarians, of which our history is full. Living like these worthies, Desmarest fulfilled a similar career, and reached, without infirmities or any grave malady, the age of ninety years. He died on the 20th September 1815.

"During his protracted lifetime, he saw the Academy twice renewed. Among so large a number of colleagues he doubtless recognised that there were many who equalled or even surpassed him in enlightenment or in mental power, but he had the happiness to be assured that his name would last as long as that of any one among them."

For the sake of continuity in the narrative, I have traced the labours of Desmarest from their beginning to their close without adverting to those of his contemporaries. His views regarding the volcanic origin of Basalt were adopted by a number of good observers, among whom reference may be made to Raspe,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R. E. Raspe (1737-1794) had a singularly eventful life. Born in Hanover of poor parents, he obtained his education at the Universities of Göttingen and Leipzig, and obtained an appointment at the latter, where he translated the philosophical works of Leibnitz. After various changes of occupation, he became keeper of the collection of antique gems and medals, and began to study geological subjects. In 1769 he communicated to the Royal Society of London a paper