Hamburg, but of Swiss parentage and old French descent, he was sent for his medical education to the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated as M.D. in the year 1816. But his strong bent towards natural history pursuits led him to take up geology, in which he was trained after the Wernerian system by Jameson. He rambled far and wide over Scotland, and formed his own conclusions as to the origin and age of many of the igneous rocks so abundantly developed in that country. Leaving Edinburgh, he settled for a time in Paris, and while there, wrote an excellent treatise in French, with the title of *Essai Géologique sur l'Écosse*, which though it bears no date, appears to have been published in the year 1820. In many respects this remarkable work was far in advance of its time, particularly in regard to the views expressed in it regarding the trappean rocks. Boué's acute eyes recognised the volcanic nature of the great series of "roches feldspathiques et trappéennes" of central Scotland, which he claimed to mark eruptions in the time of the Old Red Sandstone. He boldly introduced for the first time, into the geological table for that country, a division entitled "Terrain Volcanique," wherein he included not only the younger basalts of the Inner Hebrides which had been described by Faujas St. Fond, Macculloch and others, but also the basalts, andesites, trachytes, tuffs and other rocks intercalated in the Carboniferous system.

On the other hand, Charles Daubeny (1795-1867) another pupil of Jameson, who afterwards wrote an excellent treatise on volcanoes, could so late as 1821