illustration of the processes whereby strata, originally horizontal, have been thrown into plications. His machine for contorting layers of clay is familiar to geological students from the illustrations of it given in text-books.¹ He showed how closely the convolutions of the Silurian strata of the Berwickshire coast could be experimentally imitated by the lateral compression of layers of clay under considerable vertical pressure. In this, as in his other applications of experiment, he led the way, and laid the foundation on which later observers have built with such success.²

There was thus established at Edinburgh a group of earnest and successful investigators of the history of the earth, who promulgated a new philosophy of geology, based upon close observation and carefully devised experiment. Among these men there was only one teacher—the gentle and eloquent Playfair; but his functions at the University were to teach mathematics and natural philosophy. He had thus no opportunity of training a school of disciples who

¹Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin. vol. vii. p. 79 and Plate iv. As already remarked, Hall differed from his master and from Playfair in regard to their views on the efficacy of subaerial denudation. He preferred to invoke gigantic debacles of water rushing over the land, and to these he attributed the transport of large boulders and the smoothing and striation of rocks, now referred to the action of glaciers and ice-sheets.

²The most illustrious of Hall's successors, A. Daubrée, has made generous recognition of the importance of the work of the early master. Daubrée's own studies in experimental geology are a monument of patient, skilful and original research, and well sustain the high reputation of the French school of geologists.