

to whom we are indebted for the first detailed and accurate determination of the succession of strata and their distinctive fossils, from the base of the Chalk down into the Oolites, in the south of England and the neighbouring region in France. More particularly he showed the relations and importance of the Greensand formations, his memoirs on which are now among the classics of English geology.

In concluding this sketch of the early progress of stratigraphical geology in Britain I may refer to the important influence exerted by the Geological Society of London which was founded in 1807 "to investigate the mineral structure of the Earth." At that time the warfare between the Neptunists and Plutonists still continued, but there were many men, interested in the study of geological subjects, who were weary of the conflict of hypotheses, and who would fain devote their time and energy to the accumulation of facts regarding the ancient history of the globe, rather than to the elaboration of theories to explain them. A few such enquirers formed themselves into the Geological Society, and soon attracted others around them until, in a few years, they had established an active institution which became a centre for geological research and discussion, published the contributions of its

progress of his favourite science. These essays showed him to be an able and elegant writer, who was not only conversant with all the advances in the geology of the day, but having also an intimate acquaintance with the history and literature of the science, was able by his criticism to exercise a guiding influence on his contemporaries. His researches among the Greensand formations, on which his fame rests as an original observer, were continued for twelve years from 1824 to 1836.