

Such instances as these lead to two reflections. On the one hand, they assure us of the permanent vitality of truth. The seed may be long in showing signs of life, but these signs come at last. On the other hand, we are warned to be on the outlook for unrecognised meanings and applications in the work of our own day and in that of older date. We are taught the necessity not only of keeping ourselves abreast of the progress of science at the present time, but also of making ourselves acquainted as far as we possibly can with the labours of our predecessors. It is not enough to toil in our little corner of the field. We must keep ourselves in touch both with what is going on now, and with what has been done during the past in that and surrounding parts of the domain of science. Many a time we may find that the results obtained by some fellow-labourer, though they may have had but little significance for him, flash a flood of light on what we have been doing ourselves.

I am only too painfully aware how increasingly difficult it is to find time for a careful study of the work of our predecessors, and also to keep pace with the ever-rising tide of modern geological literature. The science itself has so widened, and the avenues to publication have so prodigiously multiplied, that one is almost driven in despair to become a specialist, and confine one's reading to that portion of the literature which deals with one's own more particular branch of the science. But this narrowing of the range of our interests and acquirement has a markedly prejudicial effect on the character of our work. There is but slender consolation to be derived from the conviction,