

Soon after its foundation the Geological Society began to accumulate a collection of minerals, rocks, and fossils. Thus :

On January 1, 1808, Dr. Babington offered to the Society a cabinet for the reception of specimens, with free access to the members at all times. This offer was accepted.

During this year there were presented the following documents and specimens :—

Sir Joseph Banks presented plans and section of workings of a coal-mine.

Mr. Vivian presented a collection of rock-specimens formed under Werner at Freyberg.

Mr. Winch sent a series of the strata in which the coal at Coleyhill, Newcastle, is found ; with a portion of the Whin dyke which crosses them, and of the coal in contact with it.

Dr. Menish transmitted a specimen of concrete boracic acid found in the Æolian Isles ; with a statement of certain experiments by which he determined its nature.

Mr. Greenough presented some varieties of British rocks collected by himself.

Sir Joseph Banks presented specimens of the strata sunk through in digging a well at Lord Spencer's at Wimbledon.

An extensive series of specimens from Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Westmorland, Cumberland, and Scotland, collected by Dr. Berger, was presented.

The first two papers read before the Society (February 5, 1808) were the following :—

A paper on the subject of facilitating the process of Blasting Rocks by the employment of Clay instead of the ordinary Tamping. By John Taylor, Esq., of Holwell House, Devon, *Hon. Mem.*

A paper on the Decomposition of Sulphate of Iron by Animal Matter, and the production of Pyrites. By W. H. Pepys, Esq.

Other papers read on April 1, 1808, were :—

On the Destruction of Rocks. By Count de Bournon.

An Account of the Mineralogy of the Islands of Guernsey, Jersey, &c. By Dr. J. Macculloch (concluded May 6).