

Mr. Ryan exhibited a core of solid rock removed from the depth of 65 feet by his patent boring-machine.

It is not surprising that the Regulation Section V., Art. 3, of which the following is a copy of the original draft, was found unworkable :—

That all questions on which there appears any difference of opinion be determined by ballot at the next ordinary meeting, when, if the numbers be equal, the president or chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

This may be judged from another statement quoted from the preface to the first volume of *Transactions* (p. ix), 1811, the principle of which has been maintained, though not without some deviations, throughout the subsequent history of the Society :—

In the present imperfect state of this science, it cannot be supposed that the Society should attempt to decide upon the merits of the different theories of the earth that have been proposed. In the communications, therefore, which are now submitted to the public, every latitude has been allowed to authors, with regard to their theoretical inferences from the observations which they record; it being understood, according to the rule of Literary and Philosophical Societies in general, that the writers alone are responsible for the facts and opinions which their papers may contain.

The steps taken from time to time to promote the study of geology show a laudable desire to attain uniformity in descriptive methods. Thus early in 1808 the Committee laid before the Society a series of geological questions, which, after consideration and emendation, was ordered to be printed and circulated among the members. On May 6 of the same year the following resolutions were adopted :—

1. That the present state of the Nomenclature of Geology and Mineralogy renders it highly necessary that this Society should adopt some measures which shall tend to remove the confusion that now prevails, in order that its own members may have one uniform language for the relation of Geological and Mineralogical facts.