

an examination of fossils, made in connection with that of the strata to which they belong.'

Although relegated to a footnote, it is satisfactory to find acknowledgment of the work of William Smith, whose labours at this time were only beginning to be known and appreciated outside the small circle of his personal friends (see p. 17).

This is not the place to deal generally with the history of geology, but, as remarked by Conybeare, in the early days of systematic inquiry, the three great geological divisions, known then as the Primitive, Secondary, and Tertiary, were treated successively by three schools, in Germany, England, and France. The German school, that of Werner, 'directed its attention principally to the primitive and transition formations, in which the distinctions of mineral character assume the greatest importance.' The English school, that of William Smith, 'distinguished itself by the ardent and successful zeal with which it has developed the whole of the secondary series of formations: in these the zoological features of the organic remains, associated in the several strata, afford characters far more interesting in themselves and important in the conclusions to which they lead than the mineral contents of the primitive series.' The French school, that of Cuvier and Alexandre Brongniart, owed its foundation to their admirable memoir on the Paris Basin, published in 1811: a work which gave inspiration to Webster in his early researches on the Hampshire Basin.<sup>1</sup>

By the end of the year 1811 the Society had accumulated such a considerable collection of fossils and rocks, that there was little or no space for additions. In consequence, on February 12, 1812, it was

Resolved that Mr. Aikin, Mr. Pepys, and Mr. Warburton be requested to examine the duplicate specimens, prepare a

<sup>1</sup> See 'Report on the Progress, Actual State, and Ulterior Prospects of Geological Science,' by W. D. Conybeare, *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* for 1832, 1833, pp. 370, 371; Whewell, 'History of the Inductive Sciences,' iii. 1837, p. 490; and Sir A. Geikie, 'Founders of Geology,' 2nd ed. 1905.