> guided only by a sincere desire to learn, they have produced, with a rapidity that is truly surprising, publications of the greatest interest and importance upon the subjects to which they have devoted their attention.[1]

In an earlier review Fitton had remarked that the papers were characterised by 'strict experiment or observation, at the expense of all hypothesis, or even of moderate theoretical speculation.'[2] This was no doubt a right view of the Society's publications at the time; and yet it is interesting to bear in mind the lamentation of William Smith, uttered in 1816, that the theory of geology was in possession of one class of men, the practice in another. Geology had hardly become a profession, unless in the case of mining engineers and surveyors, and it is noteworthy that the three prominent authorities on practical or applied geology, William Smith, John Farey, and Robert Bakewell, were not members of the Society.

As early as 1804, Robert Jameson (1774–1854), who had been 'one of Werner's most zealous pupils,' was appointed professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh; and he lectured on Meteorology, Hydrology, Geology, Botany, and Zoology. He introduced the doctrines of the Wernerian school into Britain. For some years much controversy took place at Edinburgh. As remarked by Sir A. Geikie,[3] 'Werner's followers, from the prominence they gave to the sea in their geognosy, were styled Neptunists, while those of Hutton, who dwelt on the potency of the earth's internal fire, were dubbed Plutonists or Vulcanists' (see pp. 4, 46).

Changes, however, were in progress; and in the matter of geological teaching of a practical kind Dublin was in advance, inasmuch as Richard John Griffith (1784–1878) had in 1812 been chosen as professor of Geology and mining engineer to the Royal Dublin Society. Buckland was elected reader in Mineralogy in Oxford in

[1] *Edinburgh Review*, vol. xxix. 1817, pp. 70–94.
[2] *Ibid.* vol. xxviii. 1817, p. 174.
[3] 'The Founders of Geology,' 2nd ed. 1905, pp. 213, 218, &c.