

and in a critical volume, published in 1830, he spoke well of the Geological Society, remarking :—

It possesses all the freshness, the vigour, and the ardour of youth in the pursuit of a youthful science, and has succeeded in a most difficult experiment, that of having an oral discussion on the subject of each paper read at its meetings. To say of these discussions that they are very entertaining is the least part of the praise which is due to them. They are generally very instructive. . . . With regard to the published volumes of their *Transactions*, it may be remarked that if members were in the habit of communicating their papers to the Society in a more finished state, it would be attended with several advantages ; amongst others, with that of lightening the heavy duties of the officers, which are perhaps more laborious in this Society than in most others.¹

At this period the editing of the publications was performed in part only by the permanent officers. As Sedgwick remarked (in his address for 1830) when referring to a lately issued volume of *Transactions*, thanks were due to W. J. Broderip, then retiring from 'the laborious duties' of secretary, 'for the care with which he has superintended every part of it during its passage through the press.' Broderip (1789–1859) was distinguished as a zoologist, and had assisted Buckland in his earliest studies of organic remains in the neighbourhood of Oxford.

It may be mentioned that among the important communications to the Society at this period, Murchison's paper on the Coal-field of Brora was read at two successive meetings in 1827 ; and Sedgwick's paper on the Magnesian Limestone was brought before four meetings during the years 1826–28.

In 1827 Fitton became president, and from his accession dates the series of printed addresses which illumine the *Proceedings* and *Quarterly Journal* of the Geological Society—a series broken only during the presidency of Warburton, whose remarks were not published.

Those who would follow the history of the progress of

¹ 'Reflections on the Decline of Science in England,' pp. 45, 46.