

recorded in papers by Buckland, Sedgwick, Murchison, Fitton, and others, were named and many of them described. Although not a Fellow of the Society, an obituary notice of J. de Carle Sowerby was given by Prestwich, who, referring to the great work on 'Mineral Conchology,' remarked: 'If the species were too multiplied, it was because the connecting links were wanting, rather than from any want of discrimination and information on the part of the authors.'<sup>1</sup> Comment is hardly necessary; suffice it to say that the discovery of 'connecting links' has not tended to diminish the number of species.

A few words may now be said on the early treatises of geology. In referring to the original aims of the Society, Lyell remarked that

To multiply and record observations, and patiently await the result at some future period, was the object proposed by them; and it was their favourite maxim that the time was not yet come for a general system of geology, but that all must be content for many years to be exclusively engaged in furnishing materials for future generalisations. By acting up to these principles with consistency, they in a few years disarmed all prejudice, and rescued the science from the imputation of being a dangerous, or at best but a visionary, pursuit.<sup>2</sup>

Introductions to geology and manuals were published in the early part of the nineteenth century, some of which, but not all, were written by members of the Geological Society. Robert Jameson issued (1804-1808) a 'System of Mineralogy' in three volumes; of these the third, constituting his 'Elements of Geognosy,' was published after he had been elected an honorary member of the Geological Society.<sup>3</sup> The volume was separately issued in 1809.

Undoubtedly the best of the early text-books was that of Robert Bakewell (1768-1843), entitled 'An Introduction

<sup>1</sup> *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* vol. xxviii. 1872, p. xlv.

<sup>2</sup> Lyell, 'Principles of Geology,' vol. i. 2nd ed. 1832, p. 81.

<sup>3</sup> See Geikie, 'Founders of Geology,' 2nd ed. p. 211.