

researches on glaciers of the Alps and Norway, but took no active part in the work of the Society.

The evidences of glacial action in North Wales were recognised by Darwin in 1842, and, as he somewhat pathetically remarked, 'it was the last time I was ever strong enough to climb mountains, or to take long walks such as are necessary for geological work.'

It was about this time that Lyell, in conversation, reminded Darwin that some years previously, when discussing the opposition of the old school of geologists to the new 'Principles of Geology,' the latter had exclaimed, 'What a good thing it would be if every scientific man was to die when sixty years old, as afterwards he would be sure to oppose all new doctrines.' But Lyell hoped that he might be allowed to live longer.¹

In January 1842 there appeared the first number of a monthly magazine devoted to geology. It was entitled *The Geologist, being a Record of Investigations in Geology, Mineralogy, &c.*, and was edited by Charles Moxon. It continued for two years only.

The Geological Society came in for a certain amount of criticism in some of the monthly notices in that magazine. It was remarked that the Museum was 'not visited by a dozen students in the twelvemonth,' and that but little was 'said at the meetings except by the members of the Council.' Further, 'A confidential friend, who has attended the meetings of this Society for the last eighteen years, states to us distinctly, that the difference between the meetings held during the "youth" and "maturity" of the Society is striking—that meetings which attracted in former times, on their individual merits, have long since fallen off, except casually, when the *bonhomie* of a Sedgwick enlivens the audience, or the novelties of a Murchison astound the ear—and that now it is a great difficulty to find any assemblage beyond the president, curator, secretary, Messrs. Fitton, De la Beche, and one or two

¹ 'Life and Letters of C. Darwin,' edited by Francis Darwin, vol. i. 'Autobiography,' pp. 71, 72.