

porcellanites, volcanic breccias and felstones. At a later date he separated from these certain hälleflintas, breccias, and quartz-felsites, under the name of Arvonian. He was aided in petrographical work by Thomas Davies (1837-92), who, during many years' work in the Mineralogical Department of the British Museum, 'acquired an eye-knowledge of minerals which has rarely been surpassed.'

The views of Hicks aroused much controversy at the time, and they were contested in 1883 in a stirring paper brought before the Society by Sir A. Geikie. Much has since been done in the study of the fundamental rocks in the British Islands, in the regions of Malvern and the Western Midlands, in Charnwood Forest and in the Scottish Highlands. Critical remarks on these and other more or less contentious matters will be found in several of the later presidential addresses, wherein the Monian system of J. F. Blake, and the Archæan rocks in general have been discussed.¹

In 1874 Samuel Allport (1816-97), one of the pioneers in British petrology, who by patient labour for some years had acquired great skill in the preparation of rock-slices, published an admirable paper on the 'Microscopic Structure and Composition of British Carboniferous Dolerites,' in which he dealt a heavy blow to the attempt at making geological age a factor in the classification of igneous rocks. He showed, indeed, that it was often impossible to distinguish them from similar rocks of Tertiary times. This was followed in 1876 by another comprehensive paper on the 'Metamorphic Rocks surrounding the Land's End Granite,' and that by a very interesting communication on the 'Ancient Devitrified Pitchstones and Perlites from the "Lower Silurian" [now recognised as Pre-Cambrian] of Shropshire.' The Diorites of the Warwickshire coal-field were described in 1879 by

¹ See Addresses by Professor T. G. Bonney, 1885, 1886; by Sir A. Geikie, 1891; and by Mr. Hudleston, 1894. John Frederick Blake (1839-1906) was a man of great ability and enthusiasm, and with a versatility that led him to wander into many geological domains.