

In palæontology there have, perhaps, in later years, been more contests over Reptilia and Corals than other forms of life ; but progress in all branches has been great.

That geology is a science that should prove of benefit to humanity, apart from its 'chief glory' in the pure quest after knowledge and new ideas,¹ apart from the less disinterested quest after fame, was indicated in the original preface to the *Transactions* (p. 15).

From time to time the economic bearings have been brought, not inappropriately, before the Fellows, as in Addresses by Prestwich, Sir John Evans, and Mr. Whitaker. Deep borings, water supply, the faults, flexures, and irregularities in coal-fields—all have an interest alike scientific and practical. On this subject Professor Lapworth has well remarked :—

The economic geology, as such, is as much the province of the geologist, and demands as respectful a treatment, as the detailed stratigraphy of a country ; . . . indeed, as it has been well said, not one of us, if we are scientists at heart, can afford to ignore any branch of our science, 'even though it be conspicuously—and even glaringly—useful.'²

In illustration of these remarks it may be mentioned that in 1843 the Rev. J. S. Henslow (1796–1861), then professor of Botany at Cambridge, brought before the Society a notice of the concretions in the Red Crag, at Felixstow, and expressed his conviction that they were of coprolitic origin. Subsequently he drew attention to nodules of similar origin in the Cambridge 'Greensand.' Analyses were made, the fact that the phosphate of lime could be rendered available for agricultural purposes was established, and a considerable industry, which flourished for many years, arose. In an obituary of Henslow it was remarked that 'he at once freely gave the widest publicity

¹ See Teall, Address to Geol. Soc. 1901.

² *Geol. Mag.* 1899, p. 520. The quotation at the end is from an Address given at the Mason College, Birmingham, by the late Sir Michael Foster.