

published, the first geological part for 1901 being issued in January 1903.

Works of this kind, as experience teaches, must either be paid for or carried on by geologists whose labours are wholly disinterested. There is no doubt, however, that they are as essential to the advance of knowledge as the addition of new facts or explanations. It is but a burden to science to publish a paper if all that is important has been said before. To those who write, a study of the previous literature is as much a duty as it should be a pleasure ; yet there is a limit to human capacity.

Tennyson once remarked, in reference to parallelisms that had been pointed out in some of his poems :—

They must always occur. A man (a Chinese scholar) some time ago wrote to me saying that in an unknown, untranslated Chinese poem there were two whole lines of mine almost word for word. Why not? Are not human eyes all over the world looking at the same objects, and must there not consequently be coincidences of thought and impressions and expressions. It is scarcely possible for anyone to say or write anything in this late time of the world to which in the rest of the literature of the world a parallel could not be found.¹

There is a good deal of truth in this when applied to geological science.

Mr. A. Harker, in referring to the great annual output of descriptive petrology or petrography, has observed :—

Much of it is doubtless of great value ; but its value can only be very partially realised, for the reason that this accumulation of material has far outstripped the other side of the science, the business of which is to co-ordinate the scattered observations, and bring to light the principles which underlie them.²

The only way out of the difficulty is the collecting and sorting of the 'pearls' of geological truth, in monographs and memoirs and other works of reference, so long as adequate acknowledgment is given of the original ob-

¹ 'Life of Tennyson,' i. p. 256.

² *Geol. Mag.* 1903, p. 174.