

servers, whose labours are thus rescued from oblivion. In old times Lyell carried on this great work ; in later times in this country it has devolved largely upon Sir Archibald Geikie, who has appropriately been called again to occupy the Chair as president of the Society during its Centenary celebration. In saying so much, reference should not be omitted to the monumental work of our foreign member, Eduard Suess, who first saw light on British soil, and whose work, 'Das Antlitz der Erde,' embodies a mass of original research, with full records of the labours of others in all quarters of the globe. In the words of Sir Archibald Geikie, it 'may be regarded as a noble philosophical poem, in which the story of the continents and the oceans is told by a seer gifted with rare powers of insight into the past.'¹

Mr. Hudleston in one of his addresses, oft quoted before, observed : 'The Geological Society, as we have seen, is still a pugnacious body, though the matters over which it fights are, perhaps, less understood of the People than was formerly the case, and for the same reason may possibly attract less general interest, although the work is none the less valuable because it requires a certain amount of special training in order that it may be appreciated.'²

It is one of the advantages of geology that it is truly a recreative science. If most branches require precision of knowledge in biology and physics, in chemistry and mineralogy, and much work has to be done in the museum and laboratory, to say nothing of the arm-chair, yet the fulness of the science can never be attained without the vivifying influence of mountain and moor, of valley and sea-coast. It is therefore a satisfaction to know that attractive and important work can now and ever be done, as of old, by those who, like Hugh Miller and Charles

¹ *Nature*, May 4, 1905. A translation of Suess's work, by Miss Hertha B. C. Sollas, under the direction of Professor W. J. Sollas, is in progress; two volumes have been published.

² Address to Geol. Soc. 1894.