FORM, DRIFT AND RHYTHM OF THE CONTINENTS

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It is now sixty-seven years since the British Association enjoyed the hospitality of the city of Norwich, a privilege which is being renewed to-day under the most happy auspices.

At that meeting we find the scientific community was particularly interested in underground temperatures and tidal phenomena, in the application of the spectroscope to celestial objects, and in the discovery of the oldest Cambrian fossils and the earliest fossil mammals then known. Many papers were read on local natural history, including those on Norfolk farming and the drainage of the county and of the fens.

In his address at the meeting the president, Sir Joseph D. Hooker, made special reference to the work of Charles Darwin: not to the "Origin of Species," which had been acrimoniously discussed by the association on previous occasions, and notably at Oxford in 1860, but to some of the work that followed.

It should be remembered that Hooker was one of the three scientific men, representing botany, zoology and geology, whom Darwin had selected as judges with whose opinion on the soundness of his theory of the origin of species he would be content. The others were Huxley and Lyell; and of the three, Lyell was the hardest to convince, chiefly because the record of life in the past then furnished by the rocks was manifestly incomplete and unsatisfactory that its evidence was insufficient to warrant a definite verdict.

Lyell had set out to "treat of such features of the economy of existing nature, animate and inanimate, as are illustrative of geology," and to make "an investigation of the permanent effects of causes now in
Editor's Summary

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