

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1899.

OUR SOCIETY.*

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SEVERAL travellers of the eighteenth century, among them especially Guettard, Alexander and Schoepf, gave more or less important information respecting the geological structure and mineral resources of our country; but geological work, properly so-called, began only with Maclure's studies in 1806. Born in Scotland, Maclure came to this country in early youth and, embarking in business, acquired a fortune long before reaching middle age. He returned to Europe to spend several years in the study of natural science, but came again to America in 1806 to take up his geological work, which continued until 1808.

The publication of his results, presented to the American Philosophical Society on January 20, 1809, led others to make studies and soon afterwards there appeared numerous papers dealing with geological subjects. Professor Samuel L. Mitchell, a devoted follower of Werner, infused much of his enthusiasm into a group of youthful students in New York and induced Professor Archibald Bruce to establish the *American Journal of Mineralogy*, which, beginning in 1810, reached its fourth and last number in February, 1814. Though small and short-lived, this journal served a useful purpose; it contained good papers by

* Presidential address delivered at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, New York, December 28, 1898.