

The establishment of the Wernerian Natural History Society of Edinburgh in 1808, directed, in this part of the empire, the particular attention of naturalists to Mineralogy. Three years afterwards, an expression of the same feeling was manifested in England, by the establishment of the Geological Society of London,—a Society which has attracted to the study of Mineralogy a number of naturalists, distinguished for talent, enterprise and activity. And even in the remote county of Cornwall, a Geological Society has been lately founded, under royal patronage. But the present enthusiasm displayed throughout this country in the study of Mineralogy, is not entirely owing to the exertions of teachers, and the spirit excited by Societies: it has been also fostered, encouraged, and directed, by the writings of individuals. Of these, the most eminent is KIRWAN, whose System of Mineralogy excited very general attention, was long the standard book on this subject, and has been of infinite benefit to Mineralogy. Since the publication of the second and most valuable edition of that work, and which contained the first English account of the Wernerian System, several other authors have, by their writings, directed the studies, and assisted the labours of mineralogists. Among these, Dr KIR of Oxford has distinguished himself, as the author of a treatise, entitled, “*Outlines of Mineralogy.*” Dr THOMSON, in his System of Chemistry, has dedicated a volume to the science of Mineralogy, in which that distinguished