REVIEW

WATSON, W., 1973 *The Strata of Derbyshire (1811)* Reprint edition by Moorland Reprints, Hartington, Derbyshire; with a new introduction by T.D. Ford, 18pp. (no numbers) 4 text-figs. (1 folded); 1 folded plate, 16pp. (no numbers) 76pp. incl. index; advertisement. Bound in boards, priced at £3.60.

In 1811, the appearance of White Watson's book, *A Delineation of the Strata of Derbyshire*, was no doubt eagerly awaited, by at least 177 subscribers, some of them landowners within the county of Derbyshire, about to profit further from the extraction of raw materials to cater for the needs of the forthcoming industrial revolution. At the present time, the main demand for this book will be from those interested in the history of Derbyshire geology, biography and general readers of the history of the county of Derbyshire. The difficulty in obtaining the original copy, even, so information sources relate, at prices up to £60,00, and its general absence on library shelves, has led the publishers to produce "an exact fascimile of the original" including the folded plate, index to the plate, title page, list of original subscribers, dedication, introduction, 72 pages of description of rock strata, an index and a single page advertisement for Watson's consulting services. T.D. Ford has produced a 'new' introduction, which in keeping with the spirit of the reprint edition is a reproduction of a paper published in 1960 in the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, but without the 3 plates of the original. The Ford introduction considers the biography and geological work of White Watson and includes lists of the famous Watson stone tablets and a bibliography of his written works.

The great advance in geological knowledge, which has resulted from the search and extraction of limestone, coal, sandstone, shale, ironstone and various minerals, culminating, say, in the modern 6" to 1 mile Geological Survey G.B., maps (2nd ed.) would make a comparison with Watson's section from Buxton to Bolsover somewhat invideous and the text describing the section, to modern eyes appears to be written in a foreign language. The provision of voluminous footnotes suggests that in 1811 some explanation of the curious terms used was necessary for the average reader.

The reproduction of the original text and plate is excellent, with just the right amount of faded print, usually that of the footnotes. It must have been very difficult to obtain a plate that would produce at the same time, the large black print of the main text and the much smaller (3:1 difference) footnote print. The edition is published on a light yellow paper of medium weight, perhaps in deference to the age of the original work. Unfortunately, in the reviewers copy, the main folded plate was inverted and 2 pages had paper creases prior to printing. The book is attractively bound in boards, with a dark blue cloth and gold lettering.

The book will be welcomed by those interested in the history of geology, in biography and in the county of Derbyshire generally. It is useful to have Ford's P.G.A. paper and Watson's main work in the same volume.

F.M. TAYLOR.

Publications noted during 1973

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