

term "Drift" then came to be applied to the same deposits which had been previously termed "Diluvium" (*ante*, p. 114); and both terms are retained in popular use as synonyms of the more technical term "Pleistocene," introduced by Sir Charles Lyell.

A young Russian geologist, Böhlingk, published in 1839 a paper of exceptional interest descriptive of the "diluvial or Pleistocene deposits" in Finland and Lapland. In his opinion, the greater mass of the "diluvium" had virtually been deposited by floods, but the erratic blocks could only have been transported by ice. His work helped to bring the "Drift Theory" into favour on the Continent, and comparatively few of the leading geologists in Europe at that time lent a willing ear to the ice theory of Swiss geologists and their conception of a continuous ice-sheet, or glaciers hundreds of miles long.

The departure of Agassiz for North America in 1847 took away from Europe the best-known and most powerful exponent of glaciation, and a period of stagnation ensued in glacial geology.

Seven years passed, and another enthusiastic glacialist took the place of Agassiz in European literature. Sir Andrew Ramsay¹ not only proved the former glaciation of Scotland and Wales, but recognised traces of two Ice Ages in the constitution of the breccias and pebble-beds of Malvern and Abberley. He also found evidence of glacier action in the Permian period, and this raised anew the questions of climatic periodicity and ice erosion. Venetz and Morlot had been of opinion that during the diluvial epoch all the greater areas of

¹ Andrew Crombie Ramsay, born 1814, in Glasgow, was intended for a merchant's career, when, on the publication in 1841 of his excellent treatise on the geological formation of the island of Arran, De la Beche secured him as assistant for the geological survey, with which Department he was connected for forty years, first as survey geologist, then as local director, and, after Murchison's death in 1871, as General Director. At the same time he discharged his duties as Professor of Geology at the School of Mines in London. Ramsay was ranked as the best field geologist in Great Britain. His principal work is a geological description of North Wales, which appeared in two editions (1866, 1881). He also published a geological map of England and Wales, 1859; fifth edition, 1881. Besides his official duties, Ramsay occupied himself much with the problems of physical geography and dynamical geology. His *Text-book of the Physical Geology and Geography of Great Britain* appeared in five editions between 1864 and 1878. (Comp. Sir Arch. Geikie, *Memoir of Sir Andrew Crombie Ramsay*, London, 1895.)