Palassou wrote the first full scientific description of the geological structure of the Pyrenees. He worked nearly forty years in this district, and in 1782 published his *Essay on the Mineralogy of the Pyrenees Mountains.* The work comprises eight mineralogical maps on a large scale, and twelve plates with panoramic views. After the precedent of Guettard, Palassou used special symbols to distinguish the different rocks and minerals on the maps; and took careful observations of the strike and dip. Palassou concluded that the whole mountain-chain is made up of limestone, shales, clay, and granite, with a general strike in W.N.W. and E.S.E. direction, and he gave a number of transverse sections displaying a simple and uniform structure throughout the chain.

Palassou's work was based upon principles which were already somewhat antiquated when the work appeared. He believed that the sedimentary rocks had been deposited in the various inclined and horizontal positions in which he found them. Limestones and fossiliferous shapes of all ages were termed Secondary formations; no attempt was made by Palassou to determine systematic sub-divisions according to the rock varieties, the fossils, or any other individual feature, and he discarded the "transitional" series of formations between the primitive granitic rocks and the Secondary formation.

Among the varieties of rock a diabasic rock containing uralite was described for the first time under the name of *Ophite.*

An engineer, Picot de Lapeirouse, published a finely illustrated work on the Rudistes or Hippuritidæ, a fossil Lamellibranch family represented in great numbers of individuals in the Cretaceous deposits of the Pyrenees. This remarkable genus had been discovered by Abbé Sauvage in the Cevennes mountains forty years previously. Unfortunately Lapeirouse, beautiful as his illustrations are, entirely misjudged the place of these fossils in the animal world, and called his work *A Description of several new kinds of Orthoceratites Ostracites* (Erlangen, 1781).

Ramond de Carbonnières contributed several geological and palæontological works on the Pyrenees. He was an enthusiastic mountaineer and made a special examination of Mont Perdu, which was then thought to be the highest summit of the chain. He proved that this summit was not composed of