

examination of the records of the pendulums located in the Jamaican territory can there be assigned to this subterranean disturbance a cause agreeing with the principles of science. However, from the information received it seems that it consisted of a great number of shocks, with one of maximum intensity near the beginning of the series of tremors. With this knowledge of the event, combined with an acquaintance of the geological formation of the locality, seismologists soon can assign a very probable cause of it, and determine its nature.

Since the Neapolitan earthquake of 1857, this kind of phenomenon has been studied with scientific method and seismology has made such great progress that now those who have given it their attention have gathered enough data to distinguish the class to which every earthquake must be referred. Nevertheless, we can only conjecture their causes with a high degree of probability, for we have little knowledge of the interior of our planet, the deepest drills having only reached to a depth of a mile and the centre of these seismic disturbances is ordinarily far below. For instance, the centre of the Charleston earthquake was calculated by Dutton to be twelve miles below the surface.

The actual leaders of this new science, as Milne, Gray, Ewing, Dutton and others, divide earthquakes into three classes, according to their origin. The first consists of slight local shocks caused by the fall of rock in underground passages; the second of volcanic earthquakes, also local in character, but often of considerable intensity near the centre of the disturbed area; while in the third class we have tectonic earthquakes, or those directly connected with the shaping of the earth's crust, which vary in strength from the weakest perceptible tremor to the most violent and widely felt shock. To which of these three classes then does the last Jamaican earthquake belong? On account of its destructive forces and its disturbed area, it could not possibly belong to the first class, nor do we think that the cataclysm of Kingston could be placed in the second class, because we have no evidence of its volcanic character, but, on the contrary, the few reports we have of it point clearly towards its being of tectonic origin.

According to the opinion of the most celebrated seismologists, an earthquake in the region where both volcanic and seismic centres