

been some at least that differ so entirely in their structure from any which now exist as to make it impossible to arrange their fossil remains with any known class of animals." The animal thus referred to, being clearly intermediate between fishes and lizards, was named by Mr. König, *Ichthyosaurus*; and its structure and constitution were more precisely determined by Mr. Conybeare in 1821, when he had occasion to compare with it another extinct animal of which he and Mr. de la Beche had collected the remains. This animal, still more nearly approaching the lizard tribe, was by Mr. Conybeare called *Plesiosaurus*.³¹ Of each of these two genera several species were afterwards found.

Before this time, the differences of the races of animals and plants belonging to the past and the present periods of the earth's history, had become a leading subject of speculation among geological naturalists. The science produced by this study of the natural history of former states of the earth has been termed *Palæontology*; and there is no branch of human knowledge more fitted to stir men's wonder, or to excite them to the widest physiological speculations. But in the present part of our history this science requires our notice, only so far as it aims at the restoration of the types of ancient animals, on clear and undoubted principles of comparative anatomy. To show how extensive and how conclusive is the science when thus directed, we need only refer to Cuvier's *Ossemens Fossiles*;³² a work of vast labor and profound knowledge, which has opened wide the doors of this part of geology. I do not here attempt even to mention the labors of the many other eminent contributors to Palæontology; as Brocchi, Des Hayes, Sowerby, Goldfuss, Agassiz, who have employed themselves on animals, and Schlottheim, Brongniart, Hutton, Lindley, on plants.

[2nd Ed.] [Among the many valuable contributions to Palæontology in more recent times, I may especially mention Mr. Owen's *Reports on British Fossil Reptiles, on British Fossil Mammalia, and on the Extinct Animals of Australia*, with descriptions of certain Fossils indicative of large Marsupial Pachydermata: and M. Agassiz's *Report on the Fossil Fishes of the Devonian System, his Synoptical Table of British Fossil Fishes, and his Report on the Fishes of the London Clay*. All these are contained in the volumes produced by the British Association from 1839 to 1845.

³¹ *Geol. Trans.* vol. v.

³² The first edition appeared in 1812, consisting principally of the Memoirs to which reference has already been made.