

*tive Anatomy* (1833-1840), founded upon John Hunter's preparations, Owen may be said to have spent much of his life in expanding it. From orang to duckmole, from pearly nautilus to Venus's flower-basket, a long series of interesting types yielded many of their secrets to his anatomical skill. In 1866-1868 he summed up many of his results in his *Anatomy and Physiology of the Vertebrates*, which Sir William Flower, who has developed the British Museum of Natural History far beyond Owen's dreams, calls "the most encyclopædic work on the subject accomplished by any one individual since Cuvier's *Leçons d'Anatomie Comparée*".

Minute studies of the skeletons of living animals, and of their teeth in particular (*Odontography*, 1840-1845), enabled Owen, like his master Cuvier, to win great success in the reconstruction of the extinct. His memoirs on the gigantic sloth *Mylodon*, on the giant birds of New Zealand, on *Archæopteryx*, the oldest known bird, on the extinct reptiles of Britain, on the fossil Belemnites from the Oxford clay, remain, along with many others, well-known classics.

Owen excelled Cuvier in the accuracy of his work and in the generalizing spirit which he brought to bear upon his problems. The working out of the structural contrasts between even-toed and odd-toed hoofed mammals (Artiodactyl and Perissodactyl Ungulates) may perhaps be cited as representative of his best morphological work, while his persistent adherence to the vertebral theory of the skull (which interprets the skull as composed of a few segments each comparable to a vertebra) illustrates his worst. It was characteristic of him to go doggedly along his own path with scant attention to what others were achieving. In another respect, his work seems disappointing, though it is perhaps difficult, in our modern atmosphere, to judge justly on the matter; we refer to his attitude to evolution doctrine. It is certain that he was no supporter of the "special creation" hypothesis, but his utterances suggest half-heartedness as regards the theory of evolution. One of the most explicit reads: "So, being unable to accept the volitional hypothesis, or that of impulse from within, or