

led to the formation of numerous cabinets or museums wherein they found a conspicuous place among other illustrations of natural history. They were likewise made the subject of description in an increasing number of treatises, and of delineation on engraved plates, although the question was still hotly disputed whether these objects should be considered as mere sports of Nature or as relics of once living things and memorials of the Deluge. Reference was made in the last chapter to one or two of the oldest of these collections of fossils, and to the earlier illustrated works in some of which the fossils were treated as mere "figured stones." After the appearance of the volumes by Lister and others in England, Switzerland became the birthplace of a number of treatises on the subject written, some in Latin and others in German. One of the earliest of these, the *Historia Lapidum Figuratorum Helvetiae* of K. N. Lang was published in 1708 at Venice, and contained a crude classification of these objects, in which minerals, concretions and fossil remains of animals and plants were all included. This author, though he recognised the resemblance of some of the fossil shells to species now living, believed that their germs were transported as fine dust from the ocean and germinated among the rocks.

More important were the treatises of J. J. Scheuchzer (1672-1733) of Zurich. In the year 1702 this writer published a work with the title *Specimen Lithographiæ Helveticæ curiosæ*, in which he described "figured stones" as sports of Nature. But having afterwards procured a copy of Woodward's *Essay*, which he translated into Latin, he adopted the opinion