

by Murchison, through whose influence he had received on loan a number of geological books, an invaluable aid to a provincial worker in those days. When published the work contained a record of 2,008 species. Some years elapsed before any further list of British fossils was compiled.

Fossils had been collected at sundry localities for sale to visitors in the latter part of the eighteenth century, especially at Lyme Regis and Charmouth. The most notable collector during the early part of the nineteenth century was Mary Anning (1799–1847), daughter of a cabinet-maker of Lyme Regis, who had supplemented the profits of carpentry with those derived from the sale of fossils. Losing her father in 1810, when she was little over ten years of age, Mary Anning began collecting specimens and achieved remarkable success. Moreover, as De la Beche remarked, 'she exhibited great talent in developing the fossils. In 1811 she discovered remains that proved to belong to *Ichthyosaurus*, a fossil reptile not previously recorded from this country.' Ten years later she obtained remains of an entirely new Saurian which was described by Conybeare as *Plesiosaurus*; and in 1828 she discovered the remains of a Pterodactyl, described by Buckland, and now known as *Dimorphodon macronyx*. She also found numerous Cephalopods (*Belemnosepia*) with their fossil ink-bags. The ink appeared to be so well preserved that Buckland induced Sir Francis Chantrey to make a drawing with it, and the material proved to be of excellent quality. The drawing (head of an *Ichthyosaurus*) is now deposited in the Society's Museum. A stained-glass window was erected to the memory of Mary Anning in the parish church of Lyme Regis, by Fellows of the Geological Society; and an oil painting of her is suspended in the Museum.

One of the most interesting records is that of the discovery of mammalian remains in the Stonesfield Slate.¹

¹ See Owen, 'History of British Fossil Mammals and Birds,' 1846, pp. 30, &c.