found in the calcareous slates and flagstones of Solenhofen. The first half of the second volume contains illustrations of molluscs, brachiopods, and echinids, and the descriptive text by Walch embraces practically all that was known in the previous literature about these fossils; in the second half the same treatment is given to so-called "corallioliths" (sponges and corals), to encrinites (crinoids), to osteoliths (fossil bones), to belemnites, dentalites, vermiculites, and balanoids.

The third volume begins with a dissertation about fossil wood, followed by the description of a number of Carboniferous plants. The chapter on the fossil Crustaceans which received the name of "Trilobites" from Walch, ranks far above all previous descriptions of these interesting fossils. The remainder of this volume is devoted to the description of supplementary plates. The fourth volume contains a systematic summary of all fossil forms treated in the foregoing volumes. The masterly text of Walch sets forth his own original observations, and displays a knowledge of the older literature unsurpassed for its completeness and accuracy.

With the exception of Knorr and Walch's important work, palæontographical literature up to the middle of the eighteenth century stands on a low scientific level. This seems the more remarkable when one compares the formal descriptions of fossils, and speculations about their origin and their scriptural significance, with the well-directed efforts of botanists during the same period. Botanists had already brought the systematic arrangement of plants to such a point that only the nomenclature of Linnæus was required to make it serve as a secure basis for the further progress of research. But so far, in the kindred study of the history and classification of animals, no fundamental principles had been attained. It is true some of the more advanced writers, such as Hooke, had said that certain fossil species might possibly be extinct forms. Yet, when from time to time ammonites, trilobites, crinoids, and other fossils were found which had no known existing counterparts, the authorised treatment was to take for granted there might be living representatives existing at depths or in regions of the ocean hitherto unexplored.

Interest centred in the chimeric hope of finding living specimens of these mysterious fossils, and no observer had yet conceived the far bolder, grander dream of defining successive