

The Palæontographical Society was established in London in the year 1847 for the purpose of illustrating and describing the whole of the British Fossil Species. The work it has accomplished is most praiseworthy. Each year has seen the publication of a volume containing monographs by the first specialists. Among the contributors have been Richard Owen, H. Milne-Edwards, E. Forbes, T. Davidson, H. Woodward, Ray Lankester, Traquair, Nicholson, Lapworth, Hinde, and many others whose names have a world-wide repute in connection with their special researches of animal groups. The publications of the Palæontographical Society undoubtedly take the first place in the literature of fossils, although the monographs are confined to British fossils. A more universal character is presented by the volumes of the *Palæontographica*, a periodical which was commenced in 1846 by W. Dunker and H. von Meyer. For the last three decades the *Palæontographica* has been conducted by K. von Zittel, and now numbers forty-six volumes. Similar palæontographical journals have been instituted in Austria-Hungary, France, and Italy.

Some of the more important works which treat fossils rather from their biological than their stratigraphical standpoint are Buckland's *Mineralogy and Geology* (1836), G. A. Mantell's *Medals of Creation* (1844), and the excellent *Traité élémentaire de Paléontologie*, published by F. J. Pictet at Paris (1844-46). Buckland's widely-circulated book was translated into German by the elder Agassiz. In the short geological introduction, Buckland impresses upon the reader the confirmation given by the geological record to the words of Holy Writ; then follows an attractively written account of fossil organisms, in the course of which frequent reference is made to the modes of life of the various animal groups, and to the relations subsisting between the fossil and living representatives of organised existences.

Pictet¹ treated palæontology as an essential part of the studies

¹ François Jules Pictet, born on the 27th September 1809, scion of an aristocratic family in Geneva. He studied Law and Science at the Geneva Academy, and went in 1830 to Paris, where he associated much with Cuvier, Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, Blainville, and Audouin. In 1833 he returned to Geneva, interested himself chiefly in entomology and Comparative Anatomy, and married Miss de la Rive, a grand-daughter of Necker de Saussure. In 1835, Pictet was appointed Professor of Zoology at the Academy, but retired in 1859, in order to devote himself wholly to his