

ledge of the specific forms, but could not add much to Roemer's fundamental observations and influences. The illustrated catalogue of the British Museum contains an attractive account of the present knowledge about Blastoids, written by Robert Etheridge and Herbert Carpenter.

The Sea-stars (Ophiuridea and Asteridea) offer far less diversity of form than the Pelmatozoa. If we except a few genera and species mentioned or figured by Goldfuss, Hagenow, Mantell, Dixon, and others, the first scientific monographs on fossil Asteridea were those contributed by Edward Forbes on material derived from Cretaceous and Tertiary formations of Great Britain. Wright afterwards described all the Mesozoic Asteridea, and Salter the Palæozoic forms of Great Britain. Müller (1855) and Roemer laid the foundation of the knowledge of Asteroid types in the Devonian formation of the Rhine Provinces; the Jurassic Ophiuroids and Asteroids of Germany have been investigated by Pohlig, Fraas, and Georg G. Böhm. J. Hall made known the representatives of this group in the Palæozoic formations of North America. The palæontological literature in all cases closely harmonises with the zoological, and it would seem that the Palæozoic "sea-stars" differed very little from those in the seas of the present age.

Fossil Echinids were already known in the beginning of the eighteenth century, and received full attention in the oldest systematic works by Breyn (1732) and Klein (1734). A number of new species are described in the chief work of Goldfuss, in Desmoulin's *Studies* (1834-37), and in Sismonda's monographs on the fossil Echinidea of Piedmont and Nizza. But the strictly scientific literature began with the researches of L. Agassiz (1838-41) on living and fossil sea-urchins, along with which appeared the monograph by Agassiz and Desor¹ on the fossil Echinidea of Switzerland. Valentin's well-known observations on the anatomy and histology of the genus *Echinus* was contemporaneous with the important works of Agassiz and Desor.

¹ Eduard Desor, born 1811 in Friedrichsdorf, near Frankfort-on-Maine, for a long time collaborated with Agassiz in palæontological and glacial studies, and followed Agassiz to America, but in consequence of some disagreement between the friends, Desor returned to Neuchâtel and became the Professor of Geology in the Neuchâtel Academy. Inheriting considerable means from a brother, he retired to Combe Varin, in Val Travers, and devoted himself to geological and pre-historic studies; died on 23^d February 1882, in Nizza.