Scheuchzer's Humour

which up to his time had been given to the "figured stones" (Sciagraphia Lithologica Curiosa; seu Lapidum Figuratorum Nomenclator), and gave references to some of the published descriptions of them. He was likewise the author of a Herbarium Diluvianum, containing a series of fourteen good plates of fossil plants, together with some corals and other plant-like organisms. As a further indication of his connection with England and the Royal Society, it may be mentioned that the first of these plates is inscribed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the second to Sir Isaac Newton.

To one further treatise of the Zurich professor reference may here be made for the quaint humour which runs through it. It is a thin small quarto in Latin, with the title Piscium Querelæ et Vindiciæ, 1708. The fossil fishes are represented as assembled in council to protest against their treatment by the descendants of the wicked men that brought on the Flood by which these very fishes had been entombed. They discourse of "the irrefragable witness of the universal Deluge which by the care of Providence their dumb race places before unbelievers for the conviction of the most daring atheists." Specimens of their fossil brethren are appealed to-pike, trout, eel, perch, shark-and their well-preserved minute structure of teeth, bones, scales and fins is pointed to as a triumphant demonstration that such perfect anatomical detail could be fabricated by no inorganic process within the rocks, as had been maliciously affirmed.

It was from Nuremburg that the most important work on fossils was issued during this period. Among

100