

what are now known as the Secondary and Tertiary formations.

His natural history predilections led him to take a keen interest in the fossils which he himself collected, or which were sent up to Paris from the country for his examination. He devoted many long and elaborate memoirs to their description, and figured some hundreds of them. I may mention, as of particular interest in palæontological investigation, that Guettard was the first to recognise trilobites in the Silurian slates of Angers. In some specimens which had been sent up to the Academy from the quarries of that district, he observed numerous impressions of organic remains, which he referred to sea-weeds and crustacea. The latter he sagaciously compared to modern crabs and prawns. They are well-marked trilobites, and his figures of them are so excellent that the genera, and even in some cases the species, can easily be made out. His representation of the large *Illænus* of these Lower Silurian slates is specially good. His memoir, read before the Academy in 1757, and published in 1762,¹ is thus a landmark in geological literature, for it appeared eighty years before Murchison's *Silurian System* made known the sequence and abundant organic remains of the Silurian rocks of Wales.

Guettard's labours in palæontology ranged over a wide field. We find him at one time immersed in all

¹ "Sur les Ardoisières d'Angers," *Trans. Acad. Roy. Sciences*, 1762, p. 52. The Dudley trilobite of the Upper Silurian limestone of England had been figured and described by Lhuyd in his *Lithophylacii Britannici Iconographia* (1699), Epist. i. p. 96 and Pl. xxii.; a figure of it was subsequently given in *Phil. Trans.* 1754, Pl. xi. Fig. 2.