

though the scientific training he then received must have been an excellent prelude to his subsequent career.

Lamarck, from his early love for plants, threw himself with all the ardour of his enthusiastic and indomitable nature into the study of botany, inso-much that at the age of 24 he abandoned everything else to be able to devote himself to its pursuit. He worked under Bernard de Jussieu at the Jardin des Plantes, and made botanical excursions round Paris with Rousseau. He was eventually appointed Keeper of the Herbarium of the Royal Gardens at the miserable salary of 1000 francs, afterwards increased to 1800. Yet his first published essay showed that he was not entirely engrossed in botanical studies. Not improbably the high garret in the Quartier Latin, which he had tenanted as a student, and which commanded a wide view of the sky, had given him occasion to watch the movements of the clouds and other phenomena of meteorology. At all events, in the year 1776, when he was 32 years of age, he presented to the Academy of Sciences a memoir "On the Vapours of the Atmosphere," which was well received, and proved to be the first of a long series of contributions from him to meteorological science.

After ten years of earnest botanical study Lamarck published in 1778 his *Flore Française* in three volumes. In this work he gave a succinct description of all the wild plants of the country, arranged in accordance, not with the Linnaean system of nomenclature, but with a classification which he had himself devised. This treatise, at the special instance of Buffon, was