

Hugh Falconer (1808–1865), who was educated for the medical profession, was a naturalist of the old school: a good botanist, zoologist, and geologist. As early as 1831, when exploring the geology of the Sewalik Hills, he concluded that the strata were mainly of Tertiary age; not long afterwards the remarkable vertebrate fauna was discovered by him and his colleague, Captain (afterwards Sir Proby T.) Cautley (1802–71). This discovery, as observed by Dr. Charles Murchison, was not fortuitous, but a result suggested by study and followed with definite aim. When the fossil bones were found, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and fishes, 'the ordinary means resorted to by men of science for determining them by comparison were wanting. Of palæontological works or osteological collections in that remote quarter of India there were none. But Falconer was not the man to be baffled by such discouragements. He appealed to the living forms abounding in the surrounding forests, rivers, and swamps to supply the want. Skeletons of all kinds were prepared.'¹ Eventually a series of memoirs was written by Falconer and Cautley; and the two Wollaston Medals were awarded to them by the Council, who thus recognised the extraordinary energy and perseverance, the talent and judgment, which had attended their labours. It is noteworthy that the one recipient was not quite twenty-nine years of age, the other about thirty-five.

Richard Owen (1804–92) first came prominently before the Society in 1837 when he described the *Toxodon*, one of the fossil mammals obtained from South America by Darwin. In the following year the Wollaston Gold Medal was awarded to him for his services to Fossil Zoology in general, and especially for his description of the Fossil Mammalia collected by Darwin during the voyage of H.M.S. 'Beagle': an award which, as the president (Whewell) remarked, was given at the outset of

¹ See biographical sketch in 'Palæontological Memoirs' of H. Falconer; and Lyell, *Proc. Geol. Soc.* ii. 476.