

Tertiary strata to which the name Eocene had been given by Lyell.

On February 3, 1847, after the reading of Prestwich's paper 'On the probable Age of the London Clay, and its relations to the Hampshire and Paris Tertiary Systems,' Edward Forbes, in the course of the discussion, 'remarked with regret how much information on this subject lay scattered in different books and periodicals. Mr. Bowerbank followed, and, on the spur of the moment, suggested the establishment of a Tertiary Publishing Society. The idea immediately found favour, and afterwards, at tea downstairs, it was expanded into a proposition to found a society for publishing plates of fossils, not from the Tertiary deposits only, but from all the British formations. This was the origin of the Palæontographical Society.'¹

James Scott Bowerbank (1797-1877), author of a 'History of the Fossil Fruits and Seeds of the London Clay,' 1840, was distinguished as a microscopist, and in later years for his researches on British sponges. During his residence in the north of London Dr. Bowerbank kept open house on Monday evenings for any geological students, at whose disposal were placed the 'treasures of his museum, the use of his microscopes, and his personal assistance.'² Not a few distinguished geologists attended these receptions. Sir Charles Bunbury, in 1856, 'went with Lyell to Mr. Bowerbank's, at Highbury, near Islington, to see his collection of fossils, which is really splendid—a wonderful collection to be made by one individual of no extraordinary wealth. He showed us a great variety of curious specimens in illustration of his theory of the origin of flint from sponges.'³

Tertiary palæontology at this period occupied the attention of many Fellows. The London Clay Club,

¹ 'Memoir of Edward Forbes,' by G. Wilson and A. Geikie, 1861, p. 412.

² *Geol. Mag.* 1877, p. 192; 1896, p. 385.

³ 'Life of Sir Charles J. F. Bunbury, Bart.' Edited by Mrs. H. Lyell, vol. ii. 1906, p. 101.