

of the pitmen remarked, 'That man doan't work for his living; if he went on that gate he could do nought next day.'¹

Samuel Peace Pratt (1789-1863), who for many years took an active interest in the proceedings of the Society, was a man of wide attainments and a diligent collector of fossils; he also devoted much time to the naming and arranging of specimens in our Museum. He contributed to the Society papers on the Eocene mammals of the Isle of Wight, the Bone-caves of Sicily, and the Geology of Normandy. He likewise described several new species of Ammonites from the Oxford clay of Christian Malford, near Chippenham—specimens for the most part obtained by William Buy of Sutton Benger, a noted fossil collector and dealer, whose handiwork is seen in many a museum, in the squared slabs of Oxfordian shale, containing, among other organic remains, the forms familiarly known in bygone days as *Ammonites Jason*.

An incident that illustrates the ways of great collectors was mentioned at a meeting of the Geologists' Association in December 1898, by Mr. James Parker. He referred to the fossiliferous iron-sands of Shotover, and observed that once upon a time he visited the locality in company with Professor Phillips and the Rev. P. B. Brodie. Now, Brodie, as everyone knew, was an enthusiastic collector of fossils, and was never known to give away a specimen. On this occasion they were examining some thin slabs of rock, and the question arose as to whether they contained Cyprides. The evidence was very poor, and Brodie, after carefully studying one slab, thought it might, perhaps, contain Cyprides, but was very doubtful. He handed the specimen to Phillips. 'Will you give it to me?' said Phillips. 'Certainly,' replied Brodie. 'Parker, you are a witness to this,' said Phillips. 'Yes, it is all right,' exclaimed Parker; 'he presents it to you.' Then Phillips quietly turned over the specimen, which contained

¹ 'Life of Richard Owen,' edited by the Rev. R. Owen, vol. i. 1894, p. 340.