

of the Kilkenny cats.' In the end a zoologist, G. R. Waterhouse, a most amiable man, distinguished for his researches on mammals and insects, was appointed to the geological post. (See p. 213.)

In contrast to Owen and Gray, Edward Forbes was regarded as 'quite another being,' who 'has sympathies for all, and an earnest truth-seeking, thoroughly genial disposition which win for him your affection as well as your respect.'¹ As Jukes once remarked, 'His heart and his intellect were alike large and catholic in their instincts and capacities. He seemed not to perceive, or perceiving, not to regard, the failings and imperfections of men, but to look at their capabilities, and seek for and call forth what powers and good qualities they possessed.'²

Huxley did not enter the arena until after 1854, when he succeeded Forbes as Professor of Natural History at the School of Mines. The combined post of Palæontologist to the Geological Survey and the Professorship had been offered to him by Sir Henry De la Beche, but Huxley said :

I refused the former point blank, and accepted the latter only provisionally, telling Sir Henry that I did not care for fossils, and that I should give up natural history as soon as I could get a physiological post. But I held the office for thirty-one years, and a large part of my work was palæontological.³

While, as just mentioned, this was an age of contention over bones, so also the controversy over the Cambrian and Silurian rocks came once more prominently before the Society, and the dispute reached its climax during the years 1852-54.

The division between Murchison's Upper and Lower Silurian was still wrongly defined owing to the grouping together of Caradoc and May Hill Sandstones: the facts

¹ 'Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley,' by Leonard Huxley, vol. i. 1900, pp. 93, 94.

² Jukes, Address in 1855, *Journ. Geol. Soc. Dublin*, vi. 1856, p. 253.

³ 'Life and Letters of T. H. Huxley,' p. 132.