

which the evolution in the names of Ammonite-genera was then proceeding. So difficult is it for anyone to grapple with them that we find three or four different generic names to one species in as many text-books. The more the genera and species are divided, the more difficult is it to affix precise names to any specimen; and in the later zonal work it is not infrequent to find a specimen recorded as *near to*, or *conforming to*, or *having affinities with* such and such a species; or, if it be a coral, it may be termed simply a *koninckophyllid cyathophyllum*.

After all, it is but natural that the study of 'pedigree palæontology,' as Mr. Huddlestone has termed it, should upset old-fashioned views. Indeed, since palæontologists have come to recognise not only ordinary varieties and mutations, but that there is such a phenomenon as 'heterogenetic homœomorphy,' which 'may occur either at the same geological period or at widely separated intervals,' the woes of the geologist who would like to name his own fossils seem to be almost beyond alleviation.¹ No longer, for instance, would anyone give a Sowerbian name to an Australian ammonite.

We live, it is said, in a transition stage, and it palæontology has for a time become an intricate study of nomenclature, as well as of organisms, the great work that is being achieved by many able and patient workers commands admiration. Moreover, we are assured that there is hope in the far-away future, when all the old names have been unearthed, and no more changes will be required.

¹ 'Palæontology: Invertebrate,' by H. Woods, 3rd ed. 1902, p. 14; see also Jurassic fauna of Cutch, vol. iii. *Mem. Geol. Surv. India*, by Dr. F. L. Kitchin, 1901 and 1903; and 'Brachiopod Homœomorphy,' by S. S. Buckman, *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* lxii. 1906, p. 433.