

series of monographs on the *British Fossil Brachiopods* begins with a masterly exposition of the organisation of living Brachiopods. For this introductory chapter Owen had undertaken the anatomy of living Brachiopod types, and Carpenter the detailed structure of the shell.

The whole series of the *British Fossil Brachiopods* was completed in 1870, the finished work being presented in the form of three handsome volumes published by the Palæontographical Society; the illustrations were drawn by the author himself. Three supplementary volumes were added between 1873 and 1885, and finally Davidson contributed a review of the living Brachiopods and an exhaustive bibliography of the whole group. Davidson's work brought the knowledge of fossil Brachiopods to a higher standpoint of excellence than had been reached by the palæontological knowledge of any other group of Invertebrates. His classificatory system has continued as the standard of all subsequent research.

At the present day the number of palæontologists and stratigraphers who interest themselves in fossil Brachiopods is so large that it is quite impossible to attempt to mention here the more recent widely-scattered literature. It will suffice to indicate the leading tendency in the newer works. Whereas Davidson in his systematic treatment allowed for a considerable extent of variability in his definitions of genera and species, the new direction of research guided by Hall, Clarke, Beecher in North America, and by Waagen and Bittner in Europe, tries to restrict generic and specific definitions within the narrowest possible limits, in order to enhance the value of fossil Brachiopods for the characterisation of stratigraphical horizons. A systematic review of all known Brachiopods forms an introductory chapter in the comprehensive monograph of Palæozoic types which has been published by Hall and Clarke. The number of genera has been greatly increased, and in many cases species have been elevated to the rank of genera. A new classification was proposed in 1889 by Beecher, in which it has been the author's aim to bring the ontogenetic and phylogenetic development of the group into more apparent correspondence, and to apply the differences in the beak region more often for systematic distinctions.

*Mollusca.* — Palæontology has taken no small share in building up a knowledge of conchology. The study of the