

and to discover and arrange systematically unknown and extinct species, got the upper hand for a long time. No one has done better work in this large field than Richard Owen, who has been termed with some propriety the British Cuvier. But in following the lines and filling up the schedules which Cuvier had prepared, Owen and other¹ contemporary workers in the same field have also had the great merit of bringing the Cuvierian view to the point where it clearly leads on to another and more comprehensive view of nature. In the first place, it happened that in finding and describing the remains of extinct animals, increasing difficulty was experienced² in deciding to which of the great existing groups of animals they should be assigned. There arose the necessity of interpolating species between groups which we now look upon as widely separated. The necessity arose of forming the conception of what is now termed the "inter-

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Richard
Owen.

¹ Huxley, *loc. cit.*, p. 310: "Unless it be in the 'Ossements fossiles,' I do not know where one is to look for contributions to palæontology more varied, more numerous, and, on the whole, more accurate, than those which Owen poured forth in rapid succession between 1837 and 1838. Yet there was no lack of strong contemporaries at work in the same field. De Blainville's 'Ostéographie'; Louis Agassiz's monumental work on fossil fishes, achieved under the pressure of great obstacles and full of brilliant suggestions; Von Meyer's long series of wonderfully accurate memoirs, with their admirable illustrations executed by his own hands, all belong to Owen's generation."

² See on this Carus, 'Geschichte

der Zoologie,' p. 648, and Huxley, *loc. cit.*, p. 309, where reference is made to Owen's memoir "on an extinct mammal discovered in South America by Darwin in 1833, which Owen named *Taxodon Platensis*. It is worthy of notice that in the title of this memoir there follow, after the name of the species, the words 'referable by its dentition to the Rodentia, but with affinities to the Pachydermata and the herbivorous Cetacea'; indicating the importance in the mind of the writer of the fact that, like Cuvier's *Anoplotherium* and *Palæotherium*, *Taxodon* occupied a position between groups which, in existing nature, are now widely separated. The existence of one more 'intercalary' type was established."