them the chronological succession of the strata. Parkinson finally expressed his belief that the Mosaic account of Creation could only be accepted in its general intent, that the "days" of the Biblical account in reality indicated very long periods of time in the development of the earth. A summary of Parkinson's work was afterwards published under the title of *Outline of Oryctology* (London, 1822).

While these were the more representative works on palæontology which appeared in Germany, France, and England during the early decades of last century, numerous papers on special fossil genera or local faunas were published in scientific memoirs and journals. A few of the more important works devoted to the various animal types may be mentioned.

In the class of Protozoa, fossil *Nummulites* had been known to the ancients. Herodotus had mentioned their occurrence in Egypt, and Strabo had compared them with lentils. Conrad Gesner (1565) described the first Nummulites known in Europe; they were found in the neighbourhood of Paris, and referred to the Ammonites. Aldrovandi regarded them as sports of nature, and Kircher described them under the name of "caraway" or "cummin" stones. Good descriptions and illustrations of Swiss Nummulites were given by Scheuchzer and Lang, and after that time they were included in all collective works on fossils under various names—discoliths, helmintholites, helicites, nummulites, lenticulites. Special papers were written upon them, but authors failed to arrive at any clear understanding about their zoological position. As a rule they were associated with Nautilus and the Ammonites, but they were sometimes regarded as worms (De Saussure), or as the inner shells of molluscs (Fortis, De Luc).

In 1711 J. B. Beccari discovered the first small fossil *foraminifers* in the Tertiary sand of Bologna, and compared them later (1731) with the small shells found by Janus Planchus (Bianchi) on the beach of Rimini. In 1791 Soldani published his excellent work on the foraminifers from the Tertiary strata of Siena; the figures show the specimens many times enlarged. Fichtel and Moll prepared a monograph, with twenty-four coloured plates, showing all foraminifers known up to 1803, the date of publication, and Batsch gave a number of clear illustrations of different genera and species. Nothing was known about the soft parts of the foraminifers; the whole literature confined itself to the description and classification of the shells.