

Protosphyrcæna, but to a species of *Xiphias* to which he gave the trivial name of *X. Dixoni*. Subsequently, Prof. Cope described his genus *Erisichthe*, which certainly embodies both of Leidy's species. I may mention here that the prolonged ethmoids are found in our Chalk, Upper Greensand, and Gault; and here also are found (and in no other deposit) the peculiar fin-rays referred to *Ptychodus* by Agassiz. From this association the inference is natural, that the ethmoids and fins belong to the same species of fish, viz. the *Protosphyrcæna* of Leidy, *Erisichthe*, Cope. (See paper by W. Davies, F.G.S., on *Saurocephalus lanciformis* of the British Cretaceous Deposits, with description of a new species, *GEOL. MAG.* 1878, Decade II. Vol. V. p. 254, Pl. VIII.)—W. D.

A MONUMENT TO HORACE-BÉNÉDICT DE SAUSSURE.¹

(BORN AT GENEVA, 1740; DIED 1799.)

SIR,—Chamounix is preparing to erect a monument in memory of our fellow-citizen H. B. DE SAUSSURE.

This memorial will be placed at the foot of Mont Blanc, whose lofty summit the illustrious savant indefatigably reached, not far distant from the Col du Géant, where, in pursuit of science, he encamped amidst snow and ice for sixteen days. In short, it will adorn the central position from which all the Alpine excursions of this intrepid explorer originated.

It is impossible to enumerate here all the titles acquired by De Saussure in the scientific world. Let us only remember that he was an eminent physician, a distinguished meteorologist, a charming writer, who devoted thirty of the best years of his life to the study of those Alps whose beauties he revealed with precision and poetic feeling, and as a conscientious and indefatigable investigator he became one of the founders of modern geology by placing that science on its true basis—*observation*.

The proposal to raise a monument naturally met with the most sympathetic support when it was presented to the members of the Alpine Clubs of all countries, who met at Chamounix in August, 1883, and at Turin in August, 1885.

Since then an Executive Committee has been formed, composed of Messrs. Folliguet (Mayor of Chamounix), Tairrez Payot, Thévenet, President, and Maillot, Secretary of the Mount Blanc section of the French Alpine Club, soliciting them to assist with their subscriptions the erection of a monument.

Switzerland and Geneva in particular would wish to be associated with the homage rendered to the merits of our eminent citizen. Above all, the people of Geneva ought to be interested in a monument designed to preserve the memory of a man who shed such lustre on our city and our ancient Academy. One knows, in fact, that in spite of his numerous travels and his absorbing scientific studies, he found time during many years to occupy a modest

¹ Among various writings, his most important work is the record of his Alpine observations: "*Voyages dans les Alpes*," in 4 vols. 1779-96.

philosophical chair in his native town, where he exhibited all the high qualities of his exalted intellect.

It is equally well known that he interested himself all his life in our scientific and literary institutions as well as the intellectual and material development of our ancient Republic. Many of his writings, unknown doubtless elsewhere, were received here, and the Society for the Advancement of Art founded by him still continues a work to which he was devoted.

Even when this monument to his memory shall have been raised on foreign soil, Geneva will show its gratitude towards those who have taken the initiative in this demonstration, and will honour those who take part in it.

It is with this firm assurance that the Committee at Geneva is formed to collect subscriptions.

The inauguration of the memorial is projected for the 3rd of August, 1887, that being the centenary of H. B. de Saussure's ascent of Mont Blanc. There is therefore no time to be lost that it may be finished by that date. It is important that the Initiative Committee at Chamounix should know as soon as possible the sum they have at their disposal, in order to decide what form the monument should take.

6, RUE DES GRANGES, GENEVA,
20th December, 1885.

ALPHONSE FAVRE,
President of the Swiss
Geological Commission.

A MONUMENT FOR PROFESSOR OSWALD HEER OF ZURICH.

SIR,—Two years have passed since Death carried off one of the most eminent naturalists of our age—Oswald Heer. He died on the 27th of September, 1883. The fitting moment seems to have arisen to render Dr. Heer a public acknowledgment and to raise a lasting monument to his memory. We are glad to be able to inform you that a sculptor of Zurich, M. Hörbst, has modelled a bust in clay, which gives the naturalist's expression in the most pleasing manner.

The work of Heer was wide-spread. Although truly Swiss at heart, and studying with delight the primitive history and flora of his native land, his researches extended far beyond the limits of his own country. He had become one of the highest authorities on the domain of vegetable palæontology, and from all parts of the world, from the islands of Sunda and from "hyperborean" lands, from Portugal and Eastern Siberia, from the New World as well as the Old, he gathered materials for his researches, and specimens came for identification. The works of Heer on the fossil flora of the Polar regions have placed him among the foremost ranks as one of the founders of modern botanical geography; for to him, and him alone, is due the merit of having discovered, by studying the marvellous Tertiary flora of Greenland, Spitzbergen, and Arctic America, facts of the utmost importance to science. His name will perpetually remain united with those who have explored Arctic regions, his researches will long form the basis of our knowledge of pre-historic climates.

Feeling assured of the eminently international character of Heer's