

in 1853, served as one of the Secretaries of the Geological Society 1855, became Treasurer of the Geological Society 1856–63, appointed a Royal Commissioner on Water Supply 1865, appointed a Royal Commissioner on Coal Supply 1866, elected President of the Geological Society 1870–72, Vice-President of the Royal Society 1883. In 1849, when only 37 years of age, Prestwich received the “Wollaston Gold Medal.” On 23rd June, 1874, when 62 years of age, having already accomplished a lifetime of work, he was elected Professor of Geology in the University of Oxford, as successor to Professor John Phillips, F.R.S., a Chair which he held for fifteen years, retiring in 1887, at the age of 75 years! In 1874 the Telford Gold Medal and premium were awarded to Professor Prestwich for his paper on “The Geological Conditions affecting the Construction of a Channel Tunnel.” He was made an Honorary D.C.L. (Oxon) in 1888, and received knighthood in 1895 (æt. 84). Truly it may be said of Sir Joseph Prestwich in the words of Chaucer—

“He was a verray perfight gentil knight.” H. W.

#### C O R R E S P O N D E N C E .

##### NOTE ON *AMMONITES EUOMPHALUS*, SHARPE.

SIR,—The *locality* given by Sharpe for his type of this Ammonite is quite wrong. Dr. Rowe and myself have just returned from a survey of the Dorset coast, and Mr. Crick has shown me the type. The matrix of Sharpe’s specimen is identical with that of the specimen from Humble Point collected by us, and closely approximates to the matrix of the specimen collected by the Geological Survey. There is no matrix anything like it in Man o’ War Cove, nor is there anything like it in any of the Dorset coast sections. It undoubtedly came from the Whitland’s section in Devonshire.

This is an excellent example of the confusion caused by accepting any previous records, when attempting to do zonal work or make tables of occurrences. The fossils should be personally collected by those who are responsible for the stratigraphy; error is then reduced to a minimum.

C. DAVIES SHERBORN.

#### O B I T U A R Y .

##### SIR WILLIAM HENRY FLOWER,

K.C.B., LL.D., D.C.L., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., Ph.D., [F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., PRES.Z.S.,  
KNIGHT OF THE PRUSSIAN ORDER “POUR LE MÉRITE,” ETC., ETC., ETC.  
BORN NOVEMBER 30, 1831. DIED JULY 1, 1899.

FEW men have had the satisfaction to see so large a share of their hopes and ambitions in life realized as Sir William Flower.

Born in the historic town of Stratford-on-Avon, where his father’s family had already resided for many years, he had the good fortune to be the second son, and was consequently permitted, from his youth up, to pursue that innate love of natural history which springs eternal in the schoolboy breast, but seldom lasts till manhood. In

young Flower's case it was to last a lifetime, for it was fostered through his being early brought in contact with that veteran naturalist and geologist, the Rev. P. B. Brodie, M.A., F.G.S., who was the first person, as Flower himself informed the writer, to inspire him with a taste for collecting fossils and other natural-history objects, and to stimulate his powers of observation in the field as a zoologist.

After his schooldays were over, he matriculated at the University of London in 1849, with honours in Zoology, and in the same year he entered the Medical Classes at University College and became a pupil at the Middlesex Hospital. Here he gained the gold medal in Dr. Sharpey's class in Physiology, and the silver medal in Zoology, and passed the first M.B. of the London University in 1851. In 1854 he became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons; he shortly afterwards joined the 63rd Regiment, and embarked for Constantinople, war with Russia having just then been declared. The sufferings of the British Army in the Crimea are now a matter of history, and young Flower, who passed the first winter with his regiment there, experienced all the severity of the climate, officers and men being alike without tents and even necessary warm clothing, suffering from frostbite and exposure for many weeks every night in the open air. Mr. Flower, who was never of a very robust constitution, at length broke down and was invalided home; soon after receiving, at the hands of the Queen, the war-medal with clasps for the Alma, Inkermann, Balaclava, and Sebastopol.

Shortly after his recovery, he joined the staff of the Middlesex Hospital as Demonstrator in Anatomy, and resigned his position in the Army in order to settle and take a practice in London. In 1857 he passed the examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, and next year was elected Assistant-Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, holding also the office of Curator of the Museum and Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy in the same institution.

In 1858 he married Georgiana Rosetta, youngest daughter of Admiral W. H. Smyth, F.R.S., the well-known Astronomer and Hydrographer.

In 1861 the important office of Conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, commonly called the "Hunterian Museum," became vacant by the death of Professor Quekett. The collections under the Conservator's charge were most extensive, and very varied in their nature, embracing Surgery, Pathology, Anatomy, Physiology, Zoology, and Palæontology, and some knowledge of these diverse subjects was required by the occupant of the office. The appointment was, however, congenial to Mr. Flower's tastes, and for it he gladly relinquished the practice of his profession and his connection with the Middlesex Hospital; he henceforth devoted himself wholly to scientific pursuits. The care of the Museum and its complete reorganization and gradual augmentation constituted for many years his principal employment, every department having unfortunately fallen into arrears, as regards cataloguing and arrangement, at the time he took charge

of it. The Hunterian Professorship of Comparative Anatomy and Physiology (which for twenty-five years had been held in conjunction with the conservatorship of the Museum by Professor Owen) had been separated from it some time previously, and was then held by Professor Huxley, who, however, was compelled by the pressure of other engagements to relinquish it in 1869, when the two offices were again united by the appointment of Mr. Flower to the Professorship, the duties of which consist in the delivery of a short course of lectures, on different subjects each year, illustrated by the preparations in the Museum.

Professor Flower was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1864, and served several times on the Council. In 1879, on the death of the Marquis of Tweeddale, President of the Zoological Society, he was elected to succeed him in that office, and he held the Presidency up to the time of his death, a period of twenty years; he had previously served for years on the Council and as one of the Vice-Presidents. He was elected a Vice-President of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland in 1879, and President in 1883.

In connection with the British Association for the Advancement of Science, he has held the offices of Vice-President of Section D (Biology), Norwich, 1868; President of the same section at Dublin, 1878; President of the Section of Anthropology at York, 1881; of Biology at Oxford, 1894; and President of the British Association at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1889. He was also President of the Section of Anatomy at the International Medical Congress in 1881. He was several times Examiner for the Natural Science Tripos in the University of Cambridge, and delivered lectures at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street.

In 1884 Professor Flower was appointed Director of the Natural History Departments of the British Museum, Cromwell Road, as successor to Professor Sir Richard Owen, retired; which post he held till October, 1898, when failing health compelled him to relinquish active work, and he was succeeded by Professor E. Ray Lankester, D.C.L., F.R.S., the present Director of that Institution.

The Royal Society awarded him one of its Royal Medals in November, 1882, for his contributions to the Morphology and Classification of the Mammalia, and to Anthropology. He received the honorary degrees of LL.D. of the University of Edinburgh and of Dublin in 1878, and D.C.L. of Durham in 1889. He was made a C.B. in 1887 and a K.C.B. in 1892.

Among Sir William Flower's contributions to Anatomy and Zoology may be mentioned "A Supplement to the Catalogue of the Pathological Series in the Museum of the College of Surgeons," 1863; "A Catalogue of the Series of Human Osteology," 1879; "Introduction to the Osteology of the Mammalia," 1870; "Fashion in Deformity, as illustrated by the Customs of Barbarous and Civilized Races," 1881; "Observations upon the Posterior Lobes of the Cerebrum of the Quadrumana," 1862; "On the Commissures of the Cerebral Hemispheres of the Marsupialia, as compared with those of the Placental Mammals," 1865; "On the Development and

Succession of the Teeth in the Marsupialia," 1867, in which the remarkable peculiarities of the milk-dentition in that group of animals were first clearly demonstrated; "The Affinities and Probable Habits of the Extinct Australian Marsupial *Thylacoleo*," 1868; "On a newly-discovered Extinct Mammal from Patagonia," 1873; seven memoirs on the anatomy of the Cetacea, or whale-like animals, in the *Trans. Zool. Soc.*; and in the *Proceedings*, papers on the "Classification of the Carnivora," on the Anatomy of the Musk-Deer, the Elephant-Seal, the Common Fin-Whale, and many other animals; "Observations on the Osteology of the Natives of the Andaman Islands," 1879, of the Fijians, 1880, and the Malli-collese in 1881; "The Palæontological Evidences of the Gradual Modification of Animal Forms," 1873; "The Extinct Animals of North America," 1876; and "Native Races of the Pacific," 1878.

His separate works comprise "Introduction to the Osteology of Mammalia," of which three editions have been published; "Introduction to the Study of Mammalia, Living and Extinct" (in conjunction with R. Lydekker, F.R.S.), 1891; "The Horse, a Study in Natural History," 1892; and "Essays on Museums and other subjects connected with Natural History," 1898. The long series of articles on Mammalia in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" were also written by Sir William Flower.

Apart from Flower's position as a leading authority on the Mammalia, more especially the Cetacea, he will always be recognized as *facile princeps* amongst Museum Curators: his chief object in life since his appointment to the post of Conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, and until his retirement from the Directorship of the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, having been to arrange, display, and label specimens, so as to give to the inquiring student, or the intelligent visitor the greatest instruction and enjoyment from a survey of the cases and galleries under his charge. He certainly inspired all those who were capable of being influenced by his example with a spirit of emulation and a desire to make the very best of their own section of the Museum. The remarkable series of illustrations of variation, of coloration, of mimicry, and of the anatomy of the vertebrata, which adorn the cases of the Central Hall, are in themselves a monument to his genius.

Although unable, through failing health and weakened bodily powers, to achieve the completion of the rearrangement of the Zoological Galleries (a task undertaken far too late for realization), he was nevertheless enabled to show in a temporary annexe at the west end of the Museum the most instructive series of models of Cetacea, displaying on one side the actual skeleton and on the other the restored external life-like characters of these huge monsters of the deep, which, belonging to the highest group of vertebrate animals, yet surpass in bulk the hugest of the old Dinosaurs or any other extinct reptiles that trod the earth, or tenanted the waters in Jurassic or Cretaceous times.

Truly it may be said of Flower in connection with the arrangement of the collections in the Natural History Museum—

"Si monumentum quæris, circumspice."

H. W.