

point for naturalists of all nations, who, having been once admitted, required only to make their appearance, that their arrival in Paris should be generally known.

Cuvier founded the Museum of Comparative Anatomy, and was extremely liberal in giving strangers access to its treasures, until some gentleman thought proper to remove those parts which were preserved of the celebrated Hottentot Venus; and after that he became distrustful of students from this country. In visiting him strangers were shown through a series of from six to seven small apartments, which were so many separate libraries, each having a chair or a table loaded with periodicals or prints. The last but one was the room for the preparations immediately wanted, or making under his eye, and was kept at a high temperature. The next room was his study, in which he walked about behind a desk that nearly traversed the room, and was covered with separate folios of paper; so that when examining one animal, he could put the results of the examination of the different systems down in their appropriate places: and the same method was applied to other subjects of inquiry or of composition. Cuvier, on account of the many ungrateful offices which he filled in turn, had many enemies; but the most inveterate of these could never cease to admire the simplicity and honesty which characterised his truly great mind.

Among other situations which the Baron filled, we find him a member of the council of public instruction, a counsellor of state, a minister of foreign worships, a censor of public writings, and a Peer of France.

His great work on Fishes which has always been a favourite undertaking with him, and which has proceeded as far as the sixth volume, will no doubt be terminated by his coadjutor, M. Valenciennes. He was born at Montheliard, in 1769.

The last illness of M. Cuvier was only of four days' duration. On Tuesday week he delivered his usual lecture at the College of France, and on Wednesday occupied the Chair of the Committee of the Council of State; in the afternoon of the latter day a pain which he had for some time felt in the right shoulder increased, and developed itself into a complete paralysis of the œsophagus, which resisted all the efforts of art, and pursued its fatal course until the power of respiration was wholly destroyed, and he expired on Sunday afternoon. He retained his faculties to the last, and was fully aware of his approaching end, as, in reply to an encouraging remark of one of his physicians on Sunday morning, he said, "I am too good an anatomist not to be aware of my situation; the spinal marrow is attacked, and I cannot live twenty-four hours." On dissection, however, no alteration in the spinal marrow could be discovered—a fact so irreconcilable with the character of the disease, that the anatomists are led to believe that the alteration must have disappeared after death. The most remarkable peculiarity was the prodigious development of the cerebral mass, and the immense number of circumvolutions it presented, which was so extraordinary as to induce them immediately to take a plaster cast of the brain. This is the more observable as it will be recollected that Dr. Gall, in his *Cranialogical System*, considers the development of the intellectual faculties as in direct contradiction to the number of these circumvolutions.