

research by means of observations and experiments, the home of which, naturally, was the universities, so at this early date the Italian universities conducted comparative anatomical inquiry into the animals next to man in the scale.

In the 17th century these experimenters began to band themselves into societies for mutual support and intercourse, and academies were founded whose philosophical spirit soon spread from such centres to the nation. At Naples, in 1650, was founded the first of such academies, which still survives and retains its name, "*Accademia Naturæ Curiosorum*."

In 1662, "*The Royal Society*," of London, England, was incorporated by royal charter. A little later Louis XIV. founded "*The Academy of Sciences of Paris*."

The dogma of the isolated student of science was restrained, and dogmatic views were rapidly dispelled by argument and the agreement to admit as *truth* only that which was the result of observation or mathematical calculation.

The influence of these great academies in bringing together the collectors, the museum men, and the systematic anatomists, was soon felt in the field of progress of Zoology, and placed it now, for the first time, on a plane nearer the rational one from which botany had been viewed.

By an examination of the early records of the Royal Society it is noticed that marvellous relations were not permitted at its meetings, but solely demonstrable experiments or the exhibition of the actual specimen. Under the light and influence of such strict inquiry, witchcraft, alchemy, and other mediæval relics of superstition disappeared and vanished from public belief like snow before a July sun. But a host of new wonders had accumulated which were substituted, being truth demonstrable by accurate observation.

The progress of the 18th century perhaps culminated in the great Swedish Naturalist, Linnaeus, while such men as John Hunter and Ray undertook the task of examining the anatomical structure of the whole animal kingdom and classifying its members by the results of such profound study.

The invention and perfecting of the microscope in the 19th century