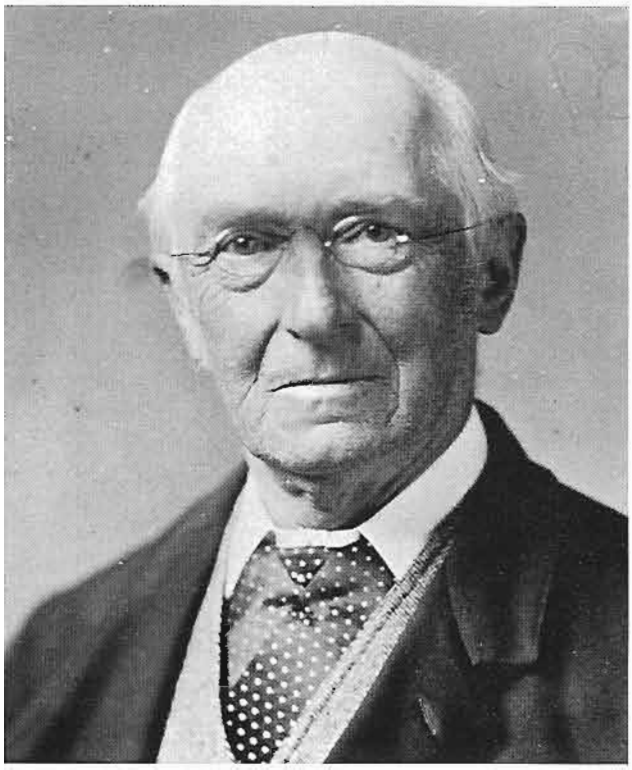

1853 and then attended medical school in Berlin, where one of his professors was the celebrated zoologist Johannes Müller. During 1854, he taught in Bonn, where he developed an important association with F. H. Troschel. He finally completed his M.D. degree at Tübingen in 1855-1857.

In 1857 Günther offered his services to John E. Gray, then Keeper of the Zoology Department at the British Museum, and was hired that November; eventually he succeeded Gray as keeper in 1875. Gray had hired him to catalogue the museum's snake collection, at a salary of £75. Günther finished the job four months later, having reviewed the entire colubrid snake collection (then 3100 specimens) which resulted in his first book, "Catalogue of Colubrine Snakes" (1858; reprinted 1971, again in 1976). Gray then assigned him to do the frogs, which Günther completed in another four months and later published as "Catalogue of the Batrachia Salientia" (1858 [1859]). At this rate Gray was going broke so he then requested Günther to take on the herculean task of cataloguing the museum's fishes which thereby diverted the primary focus of Günther's research for the rest of his life, although he continued to write about amphibians and reptiles.

In 1864 Günther published "Reptiles of British India," a project that Gray was unwilling to approve, so it had to be written at home. Three years later, Günther announced his single most important herpetological discovery, his recognition that *Sphenodon* of New Zealand was not a lizard as then thought but the sole living representative of the otherwise extinct order Rhynchocephalia. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society that same year. In addition to some 200 papers on herpetology—his geographic areas of interest included Africa, Australia, and Asia—Günther published two other books: "The Gigantic Land-Tortoises (Living and Extinct)" (1877 [1878]) and the herpetological volume in the series "Biologia Centrali-Americana" (1885-1902; reprinted 1987). Günther's work on lower vertebrates was regularly cited by Charles Darwin in his book "Descent of Man" (1871), who depended on Günther for his information about sexual characters.

Like John E. Gray before him, Günther was a great collection builder and during his tenure as keeper the zoological collections at the British Museum grew from 1.3 to 2.2 million specimens. This was a period of expansion of the British Empire overseas and the collections expanded rapidly. Günther was also responsible for moving the collections from the old museum at Bloomsbury to the new natural history museum at South Kensington, London, in 1882, and thereafter, for building the museum's great zoology library. In 1865 Günther founded *Zoological Record*, to this day the most complete index of the world's zoological literature. Doubtless his most important contribution to herpetology, however, was his hiring of a young Belgian, George A. Boulenger, in 1879, as his successor in charge of lower vertebrates, thus assuring the long tradition of herpetological research at the British Museum. Günther retired in 1895 and died at Kew, London, on 1 February 1914.

• *References*: Papavero, 1973 (pp. 409-417, "Biologia Centrali-Americana" itinerary); "A Century of Zoology at the British Museum," by A. E. Gunther, Dawsons, London, 533 pages, 1975 (see pp. 213-469); "A Sketch of the Life and Work of Albert Günther, M.D., F.R.S. (1830-1914)," by A. E. Gunther, p. liii-lviii. *In* A. Günther's Biologia Centrali-Americana: Reptilia and Batrachia, repr. ed. Soc. Study Amphib. Rept., Athens (Ohio), 1987. • *Portrait* (about 1900): British Museum (Nat. Hist.), courtesy A. E. Gunther. • *Signature* (1881): Courtesy A. E. Gunther.

COPE, Edward Drinker (1840-1897).

Edward Drinker Cope, vertebrate paleontologist, anatomist, and America's greatest herpetologist, was born in Philadelphia on 28 July 1840. In school he was drilled in the classics and later in languages by a private tutor, but it was Cope's father, a wealthy merchant, who fostered his interest in natural history, although for an intended career in agriculture. In 1846, at the age of six, he visited the museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia which, judging from his extensive notes about the trip, had a profound effect on him. During the summers of 1854-1860 when young Cope worked on the farms of various relatives, he spent his spare time in the fields and meadows collecting salamanders and snakes. By 1859 he was already a volunteer worker at the academy, busily engaged in reorganizing the herpetological collection, and he published his first paper that year at the age of 18 in which he