

length of its legs; as to the progressive development of the brain in the domestic varieties, whence even results the shape of the head; sometimes slender, with a sharp nose, and broad forehead; sometimes with a short nose, and round forehead; as these differences are observable in a mastiff and a water spaniel; in a grayhound and a pug; are more marked than in those of any wild species of a similar natural genus. In fact, and this is the maximum of the difference known at the present time in the animal kingdom, there are breeds of dogs which have an additional toe on the hind leg, with correspondent bones of the tarsus, as there are in the human race some families having six fingers on each hand.

But in all these varieties the relations of the bones remain the same, and the shape of the teeth never undergoes any palpable change; although there are some individuals which have an extra and false grinder, sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other. (1)

There are then, in animals, characteristics which defy all influences, whether natural or human, and this is nothing which proves to us that time will effect any more than climate, and a state of domestication. I know that some naturalists rely much on the thousands of ages which they can accumulate with a stroke of the pen; but in such matters we can only judge of what a length of time would produce, by multiplying in thought what the least time will effect. I have endeavoured to collect the most ancient documents of the forms of animals,

(1) See my brother's (M. Frederic Cuvier) Memoir on the varieties of dogs, inserted in his 'Annales du Museum d'Histoire Naturelle.' This work was done at my request from the skeletons of all varieties of dogs, expressly prepared.