

It is only a little above, in the coppery bituminous slates, that we discover the first traces of them; and, what is very remarkable, the first quadrupeds are reptiles of the lizard tribe, very much like the large monitors now existing in the torrid zone. Several individuals of this species are found in the mines of Thuringia,(1) in the midst of innumerable fishes of genera now unknown; but which, in their correspondence with the genera of the present times, appear to have lived in fresh water.

We know that the monitors are also fresh-water animals. A little higher is the limestone called Alpine, and above it the shelly limestone, so rich in entrochites and encrinites, which forms the basis of a great part of Germany and Lorraine.

It has produced skeletons of a large sea tortoise, whose shells might be from six to eight feet in length; and those of another oviparous quadruped of the lizard tribe, of great size, and with a sharp pointed nose.(2)

Ascending through the sandstones, which only offer vegetable imprints of large arundinaceæ, bamboos, palms, and other monocotyledonous plants, we reach the different layers of the limestone called limestone of Jura, because it forms the principal nucleus of this chain.

Herein the class of reptiles develops itself fully, and manifests itself in various forms, and of gigantic size.

The middle part, composed of oolites and lias, or of gray limestone with grypheæ, has had in deposit the remains of two genera the most extraordinary of all, which have united the characters of the

(1) See my 'Recherches sur les Ossemens Fossiles,' v. 5, 2nd part, p. 300.

(2) 'Recherches,' vol. 5, 2nd part, pp. 355 and 525.