

and it is not a little remarkable, that even the red ochreous colour of the European conglomerates prevails; the bones, however, belong to animals wholly distinct from any hitherto noticed in the preceding examples. Some of them are of living, others of extinct species, but all of them are referable to marsupial animals, as the *kangaroo*, *wombat*, *dasyurus*, &c. A portion of a large bone, found in a cave, is said to resemble the leg-bone of the hippopotamus, but this requires confirmation; it is, however, a subject worthy of attention, since the kangaroo is the largest animal now known in those regions. The fact that all the fossil animals of Australia hitherto discovered, are marsupial, that is, belong to the mammalia which carry their young in a pouch—a type of organization which is the peculiar feature of the existing races of the country—is also of great interest; for it proves that the present zoological character of those regions has prevailed from a very remote period.

37. RETROSPECT.—I must now bring to a close this examination of the ancient superficial deposits—those accumulations of alluvial matter, which taken as a whole, are referable to a far more early period than those which strictly belong to the modern or human epoch. And as in the former discourse I found it necessary to dwell on the discoveries of astronomy, to elucidate some of the physical changes of our planet; in the present I have summoned comparative anatomy to our aid,