

locality in England, but they also occur in the lias of other parts of Dorsetshire, and of the adjacent counties. Their remains have been discovered in the oolite both of this country and of the continent. I have found vertebræ of the plesiosaurus in the green sand of Faringdon in Berkshire, and in the wealden. Dr. Harlan describes bones and teeth, which he refers to ichthyosauri and plesiosauri, from the secondary formations of the United States.\*

33. PTERODACTYLES, OR FLYING REPTILES.—Of all the wonderful beings which the researches into fossil osteology have brought to light, the pterodactyles are unquestionably the most extraordinary. With a head and length of neck resembling those of a bird, the wings of a bat, and the body and tail of ordinary mammalia, these creatures present an anomaly of structure as unlike their fossil contemporaries, as is the duck-billed platypus, or ornithorhynchus of Australia, to existing animals. The skull is small, with very long beaks, which extend like those of a crocodile, and are furnished with upwards of sixty sharp-pointed teeth; the size of the orbit denotes a large eye, and it is therefore probable that these creatures, like other insectivora, were nocturnal. The fore-finger is immensely elon-

\* Medical and Physical Researches; by B. Harlan, M.D. Philadelphia. A list of the known species of ichthyosauri and plesiosauri, with their localities, is given by Mr. de la Beche; Geological Manual, page 365.