

*nodon*, *hylæosaurus*, and other related genera, and *one genus of birds*. Thus the fauna of the secondary epoch, as established by its organic remains, presents the following characters :—

Mammalia ..	Two genera of marsupial animals.
Birds .....	{ One species of wader. Supposed impressions of the feet of several species.
Reptiles..	{ Marine—about twelve genera, including thirty or more species. Fluviatile and terrestrial—ten genera, with twenty species. Flying—one genus, eight or nine species.
Insects ..	{ Several species of libellula, and some coleopterous and neuropterous insects.

If we admit, to the utmost extent, the effect of causes that can be supposed to have operated in the exclusion of mammalian remains from the deposits under investigation, still the overwhelming preponderance of the reptile tribes, both on the land and in the waters, is most striking. But does this remarkable phenomenon support the hypothesis which some geologists have advanced, that during the secondary epoch the earth was not adapted to the existence of mammalia; that it was in a state of turbulence and convulsion, which colossal reptile forms were alone calculated to endure; that it was a half-finished planet, unsuitable to warm-blooded animals, and that its atmosphere was incapable of supporting the higher types of organization? The proof that birds existed in the country of the *ignodon*—that marsupial animals inhabited the region