

of the megalosaurus and pterodactyle—that trees and plants, related to genera which now grow in territories abounding in mammalia, flourished in the dry land of that ancient epoch, are facts which appear to me fatal to such a hypothesis, and show that the physical condition of the earth, seas, and atmosphere was not essentially different from that of the tertiary and modern periods.

That reptiles predominated throughout the secondary epoch, to a degree far beyond what has since prevailed, cannot, by any legitimate process of reasoning, be disputed; but I do not think we are yet in possession of the data by which the problem can be solved.

37. OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED.—There are some who, with one of the Bridgewater essayists (Mr. Kirby\*), oppose these conclusions, and have recourse to the most strange conceits to account for the phenomena on which they are founded. But it is for those who refuse their assent to deductions made with the greatest caution, and derived from an overwhelming mass of evidence, to explain the entire absence of all traces, not only of man, but of the whole existing species of animals and vege-

\* Seventh Bridgewater Essay. Mr. Kirby supposes there is a subterranean world of reptiles, where the iguanodon still flourishes!!! and that the occurrence of a vertebra of the ichthyosaurus in diluvial gravel is a proof of the modern existence of that reptile! As Dr. Buckland's Essay follows that of Mr. Kirby, the reader has the bane and the antidote both before him.