its nature, and that its organs collectively form a perfect system.*

extinct genus differed essentially from the sloth. Its length was very considerable, certainly not less than five feet. The vertebræ of which it is composed are so large, that the circumference of this organ near the root must have been between five and six feet. Large processes are attached to the caudal vertebræ, which would strengthen it greatly: and there are indications on the back of extremely powerful muscles to work it. It assisted, no doubt, in occasionally supporting part of the weight of the body.'—*The Ancient World*, ch. xv., p. 342.

* I cannot resist the temptation to give an example:—'The shoulder-bone of the megathere is remarkable for the enormous size of one extremity. It is small in the middle and upper part, and is connected with the blade-bone by a round head fitting into a socket and admitting of free motion. At the lower end, however, where it is attached to the arm-bones, it attains an immense breadth, and served for the attachment of muscles of extreme and unusual magnitude, working the fore-foot. The use of this expansion will be obvious, if we compare the shoulder-bone of a ruminating animal, where the crests are scarcely observable, with the corresponding bone in the elephant and rhinoceros. In the ant-eater, this contrivance is carried yet further, and by its means the animal is greatly aided in digging up the large solid nests of the white ant. The bones articulated to the large termination of the shoulder-bone correspond well in magnitude and strength. The one is broad, powerful at its upper end, and short, and the other revolves freely upon it, giving that motion of the fore extremity by which man is able to move his hand on either side by a simple motion of the wrist.

'The entire fore-foot must have been a yard long and