

been at some period the superficial rock ; for, whether the remains were brought from a distance, or the animals to which they belonged existed on the spot, it is certain they could not have been disseminated through the bed if it had not at that time been uppermost. When, therefore, the remains of any animals, or class of animals, are found in particular beds and not in others, we have evidence that the animal or class only existed during the period in which the beds themselves were deposited. It is by the admission of these principles that we deduce the non-existence of mammiferous animals previous to the formation of chalk.

Some few bones of individuals of the human race have been found in beds containing fossils, but in all instances there is reason to believe that they have been casually introduced at a very recent period. In turf bogs, in alluvial deposits, in fissures of rocks, and in caves, the bony structure of man is sometimes found, but in no instance in such a position as would lead us to suppose that our species was the contemporary of the palæotheria, or even of the mammoth and rhinoceros. It is true that human bones were found in some of the caves in France, and old pottery in some of those in Germany, but their situation and circumstances clearly proved that they were of recent date, and could not claim the same antiquity as we are compelled to give to the animal remains usually found in such situations. And yet there is nothing in the composition of the human bone to prevent its preservation ; there is no principle of premature decomposition in its construction. The bones of men are equally well preserved in ancient sites of combat as those of the horse, and yet the latter are found in a fossil state. From these facts we deduce that the human race did not exist at the same time with these animals in places which the geologist has had an opportunity of examining. It is nevertheless possible that future inquiries in other countries may detect the presence of fossilized relics of man, associated with the animals whose bones are found in the gravels and caves of Europe. It may also be mentioned that no remains of monkeys, the race which ranks next to man in anatomical construction, have hitherto been discovered, although the bones of animals which now inhabit the same woods with them are found in abundance.

For the knowledge that has been collected in reference to the nature of the mammiferous quadrupeds, we are chiefly in-