

debted to the laborious researches of the late Baron Cuvier. There is a series of recent beds of gypsum, which occur in detached hills along the course of the rivers Marne and Seine, in which a great number of bones are found. The greater part of these belong to that order of animals which Cuvier has called the Pachydermata, or thick-skinned non-ruminant animals; but all the species, and many of the genera, are extinct; there is one in particular, called the palæotherium, that has some points of resemblance to the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, the horse, the camel, and the pig. Eleven or twelve species of this animal have been found, the largest being about the size of a horse, the smallest not larger than a hare, but they all had fleshy trunks, like the tapirs, and lived on vegetables.

The anoplotherium is another extinct animal, and has two remarkable characters; the feet have only two toes, and the teeth are a continued series, without any intervening gap, which, except in this instance, is only observed in man.

In the superficial gravel-beds, and in some caves, a large number of the bones of mammiferous quadrupeds have been found, belonging to both existing and recent genera; but in nearly all those instances where recent genera are found, the species are observed to be distinct from those now existing. A large number of the bones of hyænas, for example, have been found in some of the caves of Germany, as well as in the cave of Kirkdale; but Cuvier, after examining them very carefully, could not detect the existing species, though the animal had evidently all the habits which it is known to possess in the present day.

The fossil elephant, or mammoth, was a most remarkable herbivorous quadruped, on account of its immense size. Judging from the number of bones which have been found in Europe and in America, it must have existed in herds of thousands. In very many of the gravel-beds found in the valleys of our own country, the bones of the mammoth have been discovered. It has, however, fortunately happened, that an entire specimen of one of these animals has been preserved in the ice of the northern regions. "In 1799, a Tongoose fisherman observed, on the borders of the icy sea, near the mouth of the Neva, in the midst of the fragments of ice, a shapeless mass of something, the nature of which he could not conjecture." The next year he observed that this mass