

LAMARCKIAN HYPOTHESIS OF THE ORIGIN OF PLANTS.

ITS CONSEQUENCES.

I HAVE said that the curiously-mixed, semi-marine, semi-lacustrine flora of the Lake of Stennis became associated in my mind, like the ancient *Asterolepis* of Stromness, with the development hypothesis. The fossil, as has been shown, represents not inadequately the geologic evidence in the question, — the mixed vegetation of the lake may be regarded as forming a portion of the phytological evidence.

“All life,” says Oken, “is from the sea. Where the sea organism, by self-elevation, succeeds in attaining into form, there issues forth from it a higher organism. Love arose out of the sea-foam. The primary mucus (that in which electricity originates life) was, and is still, generated in those very parts of the sea where the water is in contact with earth and air, and thus upon the shores. The first creation of the organic took place where the first mountain summits projected out of the water, — indeed, without doubt, in India, if the Himalaya be the highest mountain. *The first organic forms, whether plants or animals, emerged from the shallow parts of the sea.*” Maillet wrote to exactly the same effect a full century ago. “In a word,” we find him saying, in his “Telliamed,”