

the reptile *Telerpeton* ; and, when we take into account the fact that in this northern locality outliers of the Lias and Oolite are not unfrequently found resting conformably on the Old Red Sandstone, and that the vertebrate organisms of these deposits are preponderatingly reptilian, it seems at least as probable that it belongs to that Secondary period of the world's history during which reptiles were abundant, as to that middle Palæozoic period during which, though fishes were largely developed, reptiles were exceedingly rare. But the final determination of the point must be regarded as awaiting the researches of the future.

The Carboniferous deposits in Scotland have, from their economic importance, been longer wrought than those of any of its other systems, and yet all their fossils, animal and vegetable, are still far from being adequately known. During the last few years I have found the remains of both plants and animals in Carboniferous deposits, not many miles removed from our Scottish capital, that have still to be figured and named ; and much remains to be done in the work of restoring from suites of specimens organisms of the system, both vegetable and animal, already known in part. It is only within the last two or three years that trace of reptiles has been detected in our Scotch Coal Measures. The *Prabatrachus colei* of Owen has been found in the coal-field near Carlisle ; and the foot-prints of a much larger reptile detected in our Dalkeith coal-field by Mr. Henry Cadell, the experienced and intelligent mineral surveyor of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. I refer to these interesting facts to indicate the direction in which there is encouragement to press our researches. We have hitherto had little experience in Scotland of that style of exhaustive research of which the Palæontographical Society of England is presenting us with so admirable an example. Curiously enough, however, old David Ure, one of our earliest collectors