

*of Chorology.* Wallace and Moritz Wagner have done most, after Darwin, in this respect.

The first naturalist who clearly comprehended the theory of migration and correctly recognized its importance for the origin of new species, was the celebrated German geologist, Leopold Buch. In his "Physical Description of the Canary Island," as early as 1825—hence thirty-four years before the appearance of Darwin's work—he made those remarkable propositions which I have already quoted in my fifth chapter. He there states that the migration, distribution, and local separation of species are the three principal outward causes that effect the transformation of species; their influence, he thinks, is sufficient to produce new species by the internal interaction of variability and heredity. Buch, who was a great traveller and had made extensive observations himself, also discusses the great importance exercised by the local separation of animals and plants that have migrated to isolated islands. Unfortunately, this eminent geologist did not work this important idea out further, and was unable to convince his friend, Alexander Humboldt, of its great significance. Wagner, however, in his essay on Leopold Buch and Darwin (1883), has very justly pointed out that, with regard to the migration-theory, Buch must be looked upon as Darwin's greatest predecessor.

If all the phenomena of the geographical and topographical distribution of organisms are examined by themselves, without considering the gradual development of species, and if at the same time, following the customary superstition, the individual species of animals and plants are considered as forms independently created and independent of one another, then there remains nothing for