first period of the so-called *diluvial epoch,* is now universally known as the *ice* or *glacial period.*

The ingenious Carl Schimper is the first naturalist who clearly conceived the idea of the ice period, and proved the great extent of the former glaciation of Central Europe by the help of the so-called boulders, or erratic blocks of stone, as also by the "glacier tables." Louis Agassiz, stimulated by him, and considerably supported by the independent investigations of the eminent geologist Charpentier, afterwards undertook the task of carrying out the theory of the ice period. In England, the geologist Forbes distinguished himself in this matter, and was also the first to apply it to the theory of migrations and the geographical distribution of species dependent upon migration. Agassiz, however, afterwards injured the theory by his one-sided exaggeration, inasmuch as, from his partiality to Cuvier's theory of cataclysms, he endeavoured to attribute the destruction of the whole animate creation then existing, to the sudden coming on of the cold of the ice period and the "revolution" connected with it.

It is unnecessary here to enter into detail as to the ice period itself, and into investigations about its limits, and I may omit this all the more reasonably since the whole of our recent geological literature is full of it. It will be found discussed in detail in the works of Cotta,[31] Lyell,[30] Zittel,[32] etc. Its great importance to us here is that it helps us to explain the most difficult chorological problems, as Darwin has correctly perceived.

For there can be no doubt that this glaciation of the present temperate zones must have exercised an exceedingly important influence on the geographical and topographical