

stress on these points, because, after we get through these doubtful and fragmentary stratigraphical and zoological gradations, we at length emerge on a time generally recognised as Miocene or Middle Tertiary, the larger part of the flora and fauna of which has the closest analogy to those that now inhabit the earth, the flora, possibly, even in part, specifically, and part of the fauna, certainly generically. Most of the modern types are represented in one part of the world or another: Elephant, Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, Horses, Deer, Oxen, Camels, Giraffes, Monkeys, and various carnivora. Nor are fresh-water reptilia wanting, though they are less distinctive, some of the modern representatives of these animals having held their place through longer epochs of time.

I recapitulate these facts, because the circumstances, bearing as they do on the present physical geography of our part of the world, are very distinct, and I shall soon have something more to say about the later unions of England with the Continent, and migrations of life consequent thereon.

The Hempstead beds of the Isle of Wight partly connect the Eocene and Miocene epochs, in so far that the plants of these strata (always an imperfect guide) are related to Miocene species. But stratigraphically, the Hempstead beds are inseparable from the Eocene beds below, and their fossils, those that lived in water, are almost without exception the same.

True Miocene strata are very poorly represented in *England*, as shown in Chapter XVI., in the description of Bovey Tracey, and they play no important part in its physical geography. The slopes which surrounded the old lake of Bovey Tracey were clothed with splendid pines of the genus *Sequoia* (*Wellingtonia*), oaks, cin-