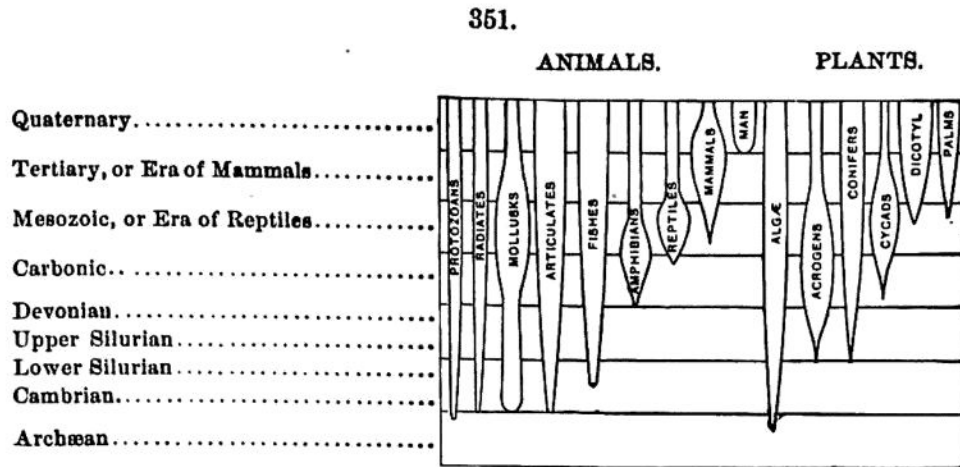


The general facts in the progress of life on the globe are illustrated in the annexed diagram : —



The horizontal bands represent the divisions of time; the vertical correspond to different groups of animals and plants. The lower end of each vertical band marks the point in geological time when, *according to present knowledge from fossils*, the type it represents began; and the varying width in the same bands indicates the greater or less expansion of the type. The following are the points the diagram illustrates : —

According to present facts from fossils, Radiates began in the Cambrian, and have continued till now, rather increasing throughout the ages.

Mollusks had their beginning in the Cambrian, and continued increasing to the era of Reptiles: they then passed their maximum (as indicated in the figure).

Articulates commenced in the early Cambrian; and, excluding the tribe to which the Trilobite belongs, they continued expanding in numbers and grade to the present time.

Fishes began in the Lower Silurian, were very abundant and of great size in the Devonian, and continued on, becoming further diversified in later periods.

Amphibians began in the Carbonic, and reached their maximum in the early part of the Reptilian era.

Reptiles began in the Permian period of the Carbonic, and had their maximum in the Reptilian era or Mesozoic time.

Mammals began in the Reptilian era, and became the highest of species in the Mammalian era or Cenozoic time.

Sea-weeds (or Algæ) were the earliest plants of the globe, probably preceding animal life. Acrogens and Conifers began in the Upper Silurian and possibly earlier. The Acrogens had their greatest expansion in the era of Coal-plants, in which they occurred with Conifers. Cycads began in the Devonian, and had their greatest expansion in the Reptilian era. Angiosperms or Dicotyledons began in the closing period of the Reptilian era, and expanded, along with Palms, through the era of Mammals.