

will amount to from 45,000,000 to 60,000,000 years.

Lastly, Walcott* has estimated the duration of the Palæozoic, Mesozoic, and Cænozoic or Tertiary epochs at about 17,000,000, 7,000,000 and 3,000,000 years respectively, giving 27,700,000 years from the beginning of the Cambrian; and Williams† has calculated the relative duration of the smaller epochs. See the table on p. 149.

The results of all these calculations fall surprisingly well within the limits of Lord Kelvin's allowance. Of course they are based upon assumptions, but none of them is inherently unreasonable; and it was my purpose to draw attention to the surprising coincidence in the closeness of these results, perhaps too good to be true. Such calculations are considered close enough if they range within a few multiples of each other.

* 'Geological Time as indicated by the Sedimentary Rocks of North America.' *Proc. Amer. Assoc. Adv. Sci.*, xlii., 1893, pp. 129-169.

† Henry Shaler Williams, 'Geological Biology.' New York, 1895.