the fore ones. Its powerful tail obviously served as an organ of propulsion in the water, and likewise to balance the creature as it walked. Its strange fore-limbs, armed with spurs on the digits, doubtless enabled it to defend itself from its carnivorous congeners; it was itself herbivorous.[112] Among Cretaceous rocks the order of Lizards is represented by Coniasaurus, Dolichosaurus, and Leiodon. The gigantic Mosasaurus, placed among lacertilians by Owen, but among "pythonomorphs" by Cope, is estimated to have had a length of 75 feet, and was furnished with fin-like paddles, by which it moved through the water. True crocodiles frequented the rivers of the period, for the remains of several genera have been recognized (Goniopholis, Pholidosaurus, Theriosuchus). The ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs were still represented in the Cretaceous seas of Europe. The pterosaurs likewise continued to be inhabitants of the land, for the bones of several species of pterodactyle have been found. These remains are usually met with in scattered bones, only found at rare intervals and wide apart. In a few places, however, reptilian remains have been disinterred in such numbers from local deposits as to show how much more knowledge may yet be acquired from the fortunate discovery of other similar accumulations. One of the most remarkable of these exceptional deposits is the hard clay above referred to as filling up some deep valley-shaped depressions in the Carboniferous rocks near Bernissart in Belgium, and which has been unexpectedly encountered at a depth of more than 1000 feet below the surface in mining for coal. These precipitous defiles were

[112] Mantell's "Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex," 1827. For recent additions to our knowledge, see Dollo, Bull. Mus. Roy. Belgique, ii. 1883. Ann. Sci. Geol. xvi. 1883, No. 6.