

evidently valleys in Cretaceous times, in which fine silt accumulated, and wherein carcasses of the reptiles of the times were quietly covered up and preserved, together with remains of the river chelonians and fishes, as well as of the ferns that grew on the cliffs overhead. These deposits have remained undisturbed under the deep cover of later rocks.<sup>113</sup> Again, from the so-called "Cambridge Greensand"—a bed about 1 foot thick lying at the base of the Chalk of Cambridge, and largely worked for the phosphate of lime which is supplied by phosphatic nodules and phosphated fossils—there have been exhumed the remains of several chelonians, the great deinosauro *Acanthopholis*, several species of *Plesiosaurus*, 5 or 6 species of *Ichthyosaurus*, 10 species of *Pterodactylus*—from the size of a pigeon upward, one of them having a spread of wing amounting to 25 feet—3 species of *Mosasaurus*, a crocodylian (*Polyptychodon*), and some others. From the same limited horizon also the bones of at least two species of birds have been obtained.

In recent years the most astonishing additions to our knowledge of ancient reptilian life have been made from the Cretaceous rocks of western North America, chiefly by Professors Leidy, Marsh, and Cope.<sup>114</sup> According to an enumeration made a few years ago by Cope, but which is now below the truth, there were known 18 species of dinosaurs, 4 pterosaurs, 14 crocodylians, 13 sauropterygians or sea-saurians, 48 testudinales (turtles, etc.), and 50 pythonomorphs or sea-serpents. One of the most extraordinary of reptilian types was the *Discosaurus* or *Elasmosaurus*—a huge snake-

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<sup>113</sup> E. Dupont, *Bul. Acad. Roy. Belg.* 2e ser. xlv. 1878, p. 387.

<sup>114</sup> Leidy, *Smithson. Contrib.* 1865, No. 192; *Rep. U. S. Geol. and Geograph. Survey of Territories*, vol. i. 1873; Cope, *Rep. U. S. Geol. and Geograph. Survey of Territories*, vol. ii. 1875; *Amer. Naturalist*, 1878 *et seq.*; Marsh, *Amer. Journ. Science*, numerous papers in 3d series, vols. i.-xlii. 1892.