

ference, however, that while the whole of an organism flourishes and then dies, the earth is affected only locally.

“These phenomena escape our notice because they take place successively during periods of time, which, in comparison of our brief existence, are immensely protracted. Whole nations may disappear without any recollection being preserved of the great terrestrial changes which they have witnessed from beginning to end. So too the increase in the area of habitable land is brought about so imperceptibly in the course of long ages that we can neither tell who were the first inhabitants to settle in such new tracts, nor in what condition they found the land.” After quoting in illustration the early history of Egypt and of the territories of the Argives and Mycenians in Greece, he remarks that what had transpired in a little district appears to take place in precisely the same way in more extensive regions and over entire countries. He then proceeds to consider how these vicissitudes of topography are to be accounted for.

“The cause to which such terrestrial mutations are to be assigned may perhaps be that just as winter regularly recurs among the seasons of the year, so a great winter, lasting through a vast period of time, may arise, bringing with it an excessive rainfall. Such a precipitation would not always affect the same countries. Deucalion’s deluge, for example, only extended over old Hellas which lies near to Dodona and the river Achelous, which has often shifted its course. Land that is lofty and has a cold temperature gives rise to and retains an abundance of water which keeps it