

water-rat and domestic mouse \*. In the caves of England two species are also found †.

The osseous breccia even contain bones of shrew-mice and lizards ‡.

In certain sandy strata of Tuscany, there are teeth of a porcupine ||, and in those of Russia heads of a species of beaver, larger than ours, which M. Fischer has named *Trogotherium* §.

But it is more particularly in the class Edentata that these races of animals belonging to the period before the last assume a size much superior to that of their present congeners, and even rise to a magnitude altogether gigantic.

The *Megatherium* unites a part of the generic characters of the armadilloes, with some of those of the sloths, and is in size equal to the largest rhinoceros. Its claws must have been of a monstrous length, and prodigious strength; its whole skeleton possesses an excessive solidity. It has only as yet been found in the sandy strata of North America ¶.

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\* See my "Researches," vol. iv. p. 178, 202, and 206; vol. v. part i. p. 54.

† Id. vol. v. part i. p. 55.

‡ Id. vol. iv. p. 206.

|| Id. vol. v. part ii, 517.

§ Id. part i. p. 59.

¶ Id. p. 174; and part ii. p. 519.