

comprises the Ganoids and Placoids; the second, more intimately related to existing types, comprehends forms more diversified; these are principally Ctenoid and Cycloid, with a small number of the two preceding orders, which insensibly disappear; and their few living analogues are very distinct from the ancient species. Now, although deductions of this nature may require to be modified with the progress of knowledge, yet the generalizations thus obtained are founded on so vast an accumulation of facts and observations, as to render it improbable that they will be materially invalidated by future discoveries; for they remarkably accord with the results derived from the investigation of the fossil remains of all the other classes of animals. The most modern deposits contain the remains of animals allied to the existing species; the most ancient, of forms altogether extinct, or of excessive rarity in the recent faunas. The discovery of existing species, or genera, in the most ancient strata, would modify, but not destroy, the inferences deduced from the facts hitherto obtained; and every geologist is prepared to find that such may be the case.

Thus of the Sharks, with triangular notched teeth, which are so common in the Tertiary formations, and were formerly unknown in the ancient Secondary, one representative has been found in the Carboniferous system (see p. 627.). But, if teeth of this type should hereafter be discovered in every Secondary deposit, the great preponderance