

of profound anatomical knowledge to the elucidation of the most marvellous epoch in the earth's physical history,—the *Age of Reptiles*.

From the great size of the bones of these reptiles, their remains have excited the curiosity even of the common observer; and although an exaggerated idea has been generally entertained of the magnitude of the original animals, yet even when reduced to their natural proportions by the rigorous formula of the anatomist, applied to the accumulated relics which years of laborious research have exhumed from their rocky sepulchres, and deposited in our museums, their dimensions are sufficiently stupendous to satisfy the most enthusiastic lover of the marvellous.*

Let the reader visit the British Museum, and after examining the largest thigh-bone of the Iguanodon, repair to the zoological gallery, and inspect the recent Crocodilian reptiles, some twenty-five or thirty feet in length; and observe that the fossil bone equals, if not surpasses, in size the entire thigh of the largest of existing reptiles; then let him imagine this bone clothed with proportionate muscles and integuments, and reflect upon the enormous trunk

* The comparative anatomist may now enjoy the privilege of inspecting, at his ease, the immense collection of fossil reptiles in the British and other Museums, and with all the advantages which access to the first anatomical collection in the world, the Hunterian Museum, presents for the comparison of fossil with recent structures.