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Megatherium. (μεγα, great; θηριον, beast.) For	
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Metals. (μεταλλον, a mine, mineral;) simple ele-	
mentary bodies, characterised generally by their	
peculiar metallic lustre and great specific gravi-	
ties. They have been distributed into different	
classes, according to their affinity for oxygen and	
the properties of their oxides. See an account	
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Metamorphic. Transformed. (μετα, trans; μορφη,	
forma.) This is a name suggested by Sir C. Ly-	
ell, for rocks which he was the first to regard as	
stratified rocks, altered by igneous agency, .	23
Meteorology. (μετεωρος, lofty, and λογος, discourse;)	
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Mollusca. (Molluscum, from mollis, soft.) In zo-	
ology, a division or class of animals whose bodies	
are soft, without an internal skeleton or articulat-	
ed covering. Some of them breathe by lungs,	
others by gills; some live on land, others on wa-	
ter; some of them are naked, others testaceous,	
or provided with shells. Many of them are fur-	