

—the latter now so valuable in Cleveland, Eskdale, and the Vale of Mowbray,—contain so much of sandy aggregates as to imply the temporary influence of stronger but not violent currents. Perhaps the *depression*, which may be supposed to have gone on generally and uniformly during the greater part of the liassic accumulations, was at this epoch interrupted. The cause must have been very extensive, for the marlstone beds are traced without real interruption from Yorkshire into Somersetshire.

In the liassic ocean nature was prolific of life. The sea was too muddy for corals or Echinida to be plentiful; in the lowest calcareous bands Pentacrinites, and in the marlstone series both Star-fishes and Pentacrinites, occur in great beauty, as at Staithes. Belemnites, never seen in the older strata, now abound. Ammonites, of many and quite different groups from the older forms of involute Cephalopods, are equally plentiful. We have no Trilobites, but many of the ordinary long-tailed Crustacea; abundance of fishes *with symmetrical tails*, and a great series of aquatic reptiles, especially Ichthyosaurus, Plesiosaurus, and Teleosaurus, in which the structures of Fish and Cetacea, of Turtle and Crocodile, are harmonized by nature into the same antique system which includes the winged Pterodactyls. So perfect are the skeletons of these mighty denizens of the old sea, that all their structure is disclosed to the anatomist—the very globe of the eye is represented by its sclerotic plates—the very skin and dermal scuta can be traced, and the bones of the fingers counted and compared with the component parts of the fin of the Whale, the paddle of the Turtle, and the wing of the Bat (see the Museums at York, Whitby, and Scarborough).

We may gather a condensed view of the rich variety of life of this period in a tabular form.

Marine life is represented by a few Algæ and many animal remains.

Asterida.	Dimyaria.
Crinoidea, especially Pentacrinites.	Monomyaria.
Echinida.	Brachiopoda.