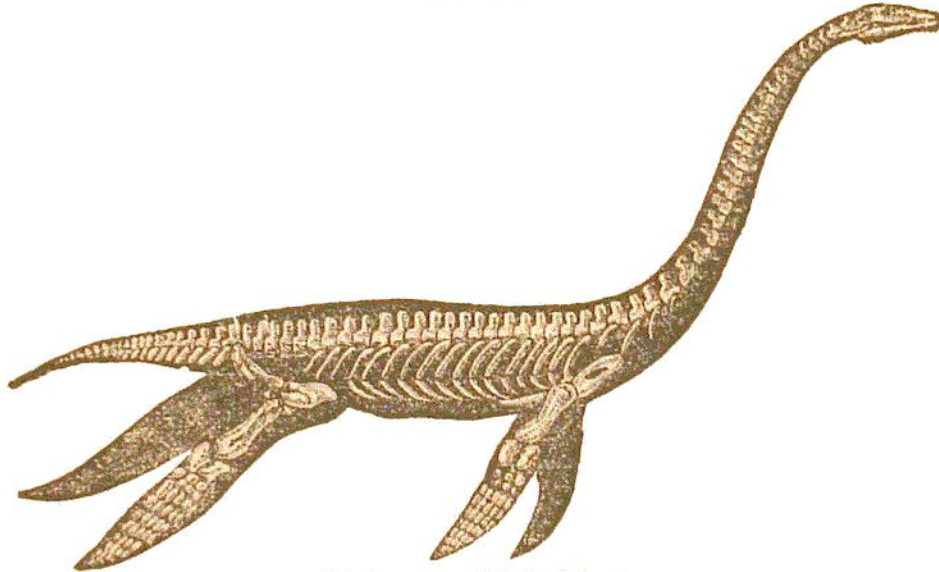


*Plesiosaurus*.—This animal, of which twenty species have been found, has the general structure of the ichthyosaurus. Its most remarkable difference is the great length of the neck, which has from twenty to forty vertebræ; a larger number than in any known animal; those of living reptiles varying from three to six, and those of birds from nine to twenty-three.

The largest perfect specimen yet found is eleven feet long, with about ninety vertebræ. Its paddles were proportionally larger than in the ichthyosauri. It was carnivorous; an inhabitant of the ocean, or rather of bays and estuaries, where it probably used its long neck for seizing fish beneath, and perhaps flying reptiles above the waters. Fig. 293 exhibits a restoration of one of the most remarkable species, the *P. dolichodeirus*.

Fig. 293.



*Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus*.

In Fig. 294 we give a sketch of one of the most perfect skeletons of *Plesiosaurus macrocephalus* as it lay in the rock.

The preceding were carnivorous reptiles that lived in the sea. But during the same period the land was tenanted by others, called Dinosaurians, of still more gigantic size, whose teeth indicate that they were mostly vegetable feeders, or possibly sometimes living on a mixed diet. We give a few examples.

*Megalosaurus*.—This name (meaning a *great saurian*) has been given by Dr. Buckland to a gigantic terrestrial reptile, thirty feet long, allied to the crocodile and monitor in structure, and found in the oolite. The animal was carnivorous; and in the structure of its teeth are combined the knife, the saw, and the sabre. Its principal food was probably crocodiles and tortoises. It had a Dinosaurian companion, called the *Hylæosaurus*, about twenty-five feet long.