

The fossil univalve shells, which are less than 100 species in the Silurian, have increased upward to the newer tertiary, which has yielded twenty times as many species. All the fossil species are less than 6,000, while the recent species exceed 8,000. The air-breathing molluscs found fossil bear a still smaller proportion to those now alive. Only 300 species of land snails, and half as many other air-breathers occur fossil, but the living land snails exceed 4,000.

Passing by the other groups of the lower animals, we come to the vertebrates. The number of fish is greatly increased, amounting to 188 genera; but they approach existing forms so much that we give only a few examples, and those rather peculiar; for one-third of the genera of the lower tertiary have become extinct, and these are some of them.

Fig. 382 shows the Semiophorus velicans of Agassiz, from the famous locality at Monte Bolca, in Italy.

Fig. 383 shows a small fish called Lebias cephalotes, from the fresh water tertiary strata, in France. It gives a good idea of their crowded condition sometimes.

The Squalidæ or sharks have prevailed in all periods of the world's history since fishes first appeared. Many of those in the present seas are large and justly dreaded. But they are mere pigmies compared with those that swam in the seas that washed the shores of North and South Carolina during the eocene and micocene periods, as Fig. 384 will prove. It is copied from a