

cessive creations, since the first appearance of living beings.

7. It is but a short time since it was not difficult for a man to possess himself of the whole domain of positive knowledge in Zoölogy. A century ago, the number of known animals did not exceed 8000; that is to say, from the whole Animal Kingdom, fewer species were then known than are now contained in many private collections of certain families of insects merely. At the present day, the number of living species which have been satisfactorily made out and described, is more than 50,000.\* The fossils already described exceed 6000 species; and if we

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\* The number of vertebrate animals may be estimated at 20,000. About 1500 species of mammals are pretty precisely known, and the number may probably be carried to about 2000.

The number of Birds well known is 4 or 5000 species, and the probable number is 6000.

The Reptiles number about the same as the Mammals, 1500 described species, and they will probably reach the number of 2000.

The Fishes are more numerous: there are from 5 to 6000 species in the museums of Europe, and the number may probably amount to 8 or 10,000:

The number of Mollusks already in collections probably reaches 8 or 10,000. There are collections of marine shells, bivalve and univalve, which amount to 5 or 6000; and collections of land and fluviatile shells, which count as many as 2000. The total number of mollusks would, therefore, probably exceed 15,000 species.

Among the articulated animals it is difficult to estimate the number of species. There are collections of coleopterous insects which number 20 to 25,000 species; and it is quite probable, that by uniting the principal collections of insects, 60 or 80,000 species might now be counted; for the whole department of articulata, comprising the crustacea, the cirrhipeda, the insects, the red-blooded worms, the intestinal worms, and the infusoria so far as they belong to this department, the number would already amount to 100,000; and we might safely compute the probable number of species actually existing at double that sum.

Add to these about 10,000 for radiata, including echini, star-fishes, medusæ, and polypi, and we have about 250,000 species of living animals; and supposing the number of fossil species only to equal them, we have, at a very moderate computation, half a million of species.