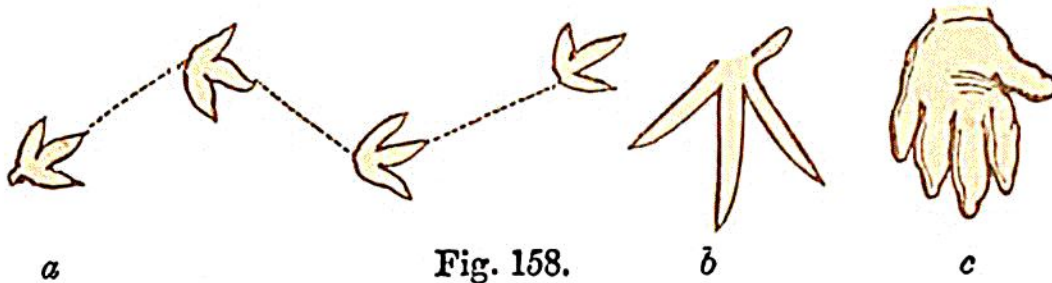
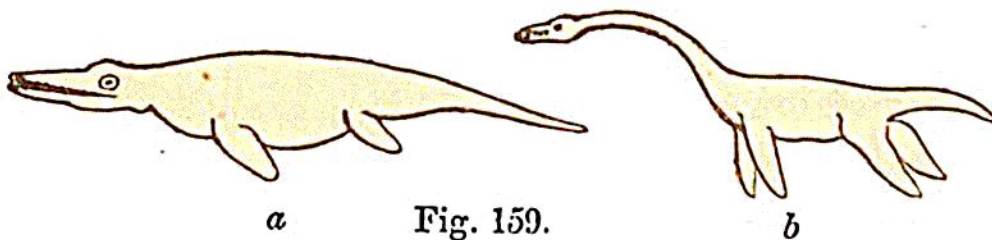


with a great number of birds' tracks (Fig. 158, *a*, *b*) belonging to this epoch, for the most part indicating birds of gigantic size. These impressions, which he has designated under the name of *Ornithichnites*, are some of them eighteen inches



in length, and five feet apart, far exceeding in size the tracks of the largest ostrich. Other tracks, of a very peculiar shape, have been found in the red sandstone of Germany, and in Pennsylvania. They were probably made by Reptiles which have been called *Cheirotherium*, from the resemblance of the track to a hand, (*c*.) The Mollusks, Articulates, and Radiates of this period, approach to the fauna of the succeeding period.

484. The fauna of the Oölitic formation is remarkable for the great number of gigantic Reptiles which it contains. In



this formation we find those enormous Amphibia, known under the names *Ichthyosaurus*, *Plesiosaurus*, *Megalosaurus*, and *Iguanodon*. The first, in particular, the *Ichthyosaurus*, (Fig. 159, *a*,) greatly abounded on the coast of the continents of that period, and their skeletons are so well preserved, that we are enabled to study even the minutest details of their structure, which differs essentially from that of the Reptiles of the present day. In some respects they form an intermediate link between the Fishes and Mammals, and may be considered as the prototypes of the Whales, having, like