

it may have been a marine vegetation notwithstanding. No terrestrial plant has yet been detected in the Silurians of either England or Scotland : the flora of the time, within at least the area of the British islands, seems to have been a poverty-stricken flora of the sea, consisting mainly of Fuci and Algæ, and including as its highest forms a species or two of *Zostera*, or, as is more probable, of some extinct analogous family.

The Silurian fauna in Scotland consisted also, so far as we can now judge from the broken remains, of but a few marine forms. In the Silurian deposits of England fishes appear ; but in our Scotch Silurians we find nothing higher than a Trilobite or a cephalopodous mollusc. The Trilobite was perhaps the most characteristic organic form of the system. It occurred also, though in types specifically distinct, in the Old Red Sandstones of England and the Continent ; and I have found well-marked specimens even in the Mountain Limestone of this neighbourhood,—the formation in which the family finally disappears ; but it was in the Silurian system that it received its fullest development both in size and number ; and portions of at least five species have been detected in the Silurian deposits of Scotland. The Trilobite was a many-jointed crustacean, which, since the close of the Carboniferous period, has had no adequate representative in creation, but whose nearest allies we have now to seek among the minute Entomostraca, especially among the genus *Branchipus*,—little insect-like creatures, occasionally found in stagnant pools, furnished with fin-like legs, fitted for swimming, but not for walking with, and that, spending happy lives, darting hither and thither through the upper reaches of the water, now swim along the surface on their backs and now on their abdomens. The Trilobites, like the Entomostraca, seem to have been furnished with merely membranaceous, oar-like limbs, and must have led a purely aquatic life as swimmers,—at one