

these patches represent the Keuper of Germany. If this view should be sustained, this author, who has already made remarkable additions to our acquaintance with the organic remains of the Oolitic rocks and the Lias, will have had the merit of having discovered the first traces of mammalia in any British stratum below the Stonesfield slates.' . . . 'Let me entreat,' says Sir Roderick, in a passage occurring shortly after that we have quoted,—'Let me entreat the reader not to be led, by the reasoning of the ablest physiologist, or by an appeal to minute structural affinities, to impugn the clear and exact facts of a succession from lower to higher grades of life in each formation. Let no one imagine that because the bony characters in the jaw and teeth of the *Plagiaulax* of the Purbeck strata are such as the comparative anatomist might have expected to find among existing marsupials, and that the animal is therefore far removed from the embryonic archetype, such an argument disturbs the order of succession of *classes*, as seen in the crust of the earth.' So far from disturbing the order of succession, it is, we conceive, of exceeding interest to find the Mesozoic period marked in its commencement, as it most probably will be found to be, by the introduction of a form of being so entirely different from any that preceded it. It seems to us to bring the true development hypothesis into a clearer and more harmonious unity. The great period during which the little annelide or sand-boring worm was the sole tenant of this wide earth,—its first inhabitant after the primeval void,—has passed. The æon of the Mollusc and the Crustacean follows. At its close appear the first fishes, very scanty in point of numbers and of species, but