

type of conscious existence. One animal dwells on the land, another in the soil, a third in the air, a fourth in salt water, a fifth in fresh; one burrows in a log, another in a rock, a third in the mud, a fourth in the flesh, or brain, or liver, or even the eye of another animal. Ponderous quadrupeds move through the jungle, wily serpents glide among the reeds, the centipede crouches under a stone, the minnow darts beneath the sedgy bank, and the lazy oyster sleeps in the mud at the bottom of the bay. We place beneath the microscope a specimen of the mud in which the oyster spends his drowsy life, or even a sample of the water in which the familiar frog delights, and lo! another world is revealed to our vision—vegetal and animal life in forms as varied as all that the unassisted eye has seen in the greater world.

Nor is this all. Every one has read of forms long since extinct—of strange and monstrous forms that sported upon the earth before the empires of the brute creation had been subjugated by the intellect of man. A stonemason of Cromarty has introduced to the world the *Asterolepis* of Stromness, and the *Cephalaspis* and *Pterichthys* of the “old red sandstone”—fishes which the most learned had at one time almost decided to throw into the company of turtles. Mantell has amazed us with stories of the *Iguanodon*, an immense lizard, believed by him to have been sixty feet in length, which crawled over the slime of the latest part of the Jurassic period. These all were forms of the middle ages of the world’s history. As we run back through the æons preceding, we tread upon the graves of myriads of beings which in their day swarmed in the depths of the sea, but whose lineage and likeness are now known only in history. We push back through the dim dawn of being, and stand upon the sandy shore of that uneasy sea in which Creative Power first essayed