

each other. The latter circumstance led to the opinion that the posterior limbs of the reptile were much stouter than the anterior, as in the kangaroo and frog. When the bones of these animals were brought to light, geologists had the opportunity to certify themselves that these problematical hand-prints were impressed by reptilian instead of mammalian quadrupeds; and that while the weight of characters allied them to true reptiles, they nevertheless possessed strong analogies with Batrachians, and probably simulated the form and habits of the frog—though in truth we should say that the frog was subsequently fashioned in the similitude of a Labyrinthodont. The head was helmeted by a pair of broad, bony plates, through which were openings for the eyes; and some parts of the body were covered, especially in the later ages, by a similar armor. The striking characteristic of these ancient reptiles, from which they receive their name, is seen when a very thin transverse section or slice of one of the teeth is viewed under the microscope. The external coating of the tooth, called cement, is folded inward in folds which reach to the central cavity, and in their course are inflected into a *labyrinth* of subordinate lateral folds. Some of these frog-like quadrupeds seem to have attained the size of an ox. It is likely that they were the representatives of the class of Batrachians in those early periods, as no other Batrachia are known in the Trias; and those before alluded to from the coal-measures are known likewise to have possessed the peculiar cephalic plates of the Labyrinthodonts.

The Triassic Age witnessed also the advent of multitudes of marine saurians of the family of Ichthyosaurs, having enormous cavities in their craniums for the lodgment of the eyes. This type of reptiles is restricted to this single age of the world. Here also crawled reptiles resembling gigantic lizards, semi-aquatic or purely terrestrial in