

ive phases of animal life have swept like waves over the surface of our planet, but none has been more striking or more real than that which was dominant through Mesozoic time. Throughout the whole extent of Great Britain there has not been known a single large reptile during the human era; yet in the single era of the Wealden the British dominions maintained four or five species of Dinosaurs fifteen to twenty feet in length, ten or twelve Crocodilians, Lacer-tians, and Enaliosaurs ten to fifty or sixty feet in length, besides Pterosaurs and Turtles, to say nothing of the probably numerous species whose fossil remains have as yet escaped observation. These successive swells in the stream of animal life are convenient stand-points from which to note the progressive development of organic existence. The history of reptiles, like that of fishes, presents some remarkable exceptional features, which have a most important bearing upon the question of "development," which is taking a front rank among the questions of the age. But these aspects of the case are reserved for future consideration.