

the bones of land lizards, *Thecodontosaurus antiquus*, *Palæosaurus Cylindrodon*, and *P. Platyodon*.

The rock salt of England lies above these beds in the great marly plains of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Worcestershire. It is found at varying depths, in interrupted lenticular beds, ranging from a few feet to about 120 feet in thickness. No fossils occur in the salt. The mass is usually of a reddish colour, due to the presence of ferruginous impurities.

For long there was a total absence of any rational account of the manner of deposition of rock-salt, but I think few geologists now doubt that it was precipitated in supersaturated salt lakes during the Keuper period; and this could only have been done by evaporation, due to solar heat acting on the waters of salt lakes which had no outflow, like the Great Salt Lake of Utah, for example, or the salt lakes of Central Asia and of the Sahara.¹ The red marl varies from 500 to 2,000 feet in thickness, and contains a thin band of white sandstone, often with pseudomorphs of crystals of rock-salt, and also bearing a small bivalve crustacean, *Estheria minuta*, a lamellibranchiate small bivalve shell, *Pullastra arenicola*, a fish, *Hybodus Keuperi*, footprints of *Labyrinthodon giganteus*, and others, also bones of reptiles, and traces of land plants, fig. 33. Teeth also of a small Marsupial mammal, *Microlestes antiquus*, occur in the red marls near Watchett in Somersetshire. This is the oldest known mammalian relic. In Scotland, at Lossiemouth, Keuper sandstones contain scutes and bones of a crocodile, *Stagenolepis Robertsoni*, *Hyperodapedon*, and a land lizard, *Telerpeton Elginense*.²

¹ See memoir 'On the Physical Relations of the New Red Marl Rhætic Beds, and Lower Lias:' Geological Journal, 1871: Ramsay.

² On the Continent, near Strasburg, about thirty species of plants