

should have been destitute of all mammalian life, for it seems more than absurd to suppose, that none of these animals should have found their way into our area, while they swarmed in regions so near as Switzerland, France, and the Rhine, where, however, at that time no Rhine existed. On the contrary, I, for one, take it for granted that some of them must have inhabited the southern ground of our British area, where the old lake of Bovey Tracey lay in a latitude not two degrees further north than that old lake of the Valley of the Rhine, which in those days, between the mountains of the Black Forest and the Vosges, stretched all the way from Basle to Mayence and the neighbourhood of Bingen. The banks of that lake were inhabited by the same mammalia that inhabits the adjoining area of the great Miocene Swiss lakes, and we may readily believe that, in the physiography of the south British area, there was nothing inimical to the thriving of such species, for its climate was then warm, and its great plains, tablelands, valleys, and mountains, were doubtless clothed with a rich vegetation. This, however, we may assume, that, just as we pass northward, the vegetation of the day assumed a more northern type, so in the mountain land of that older Scotland, and on its western flanks, where lofty volcanoes were growing, the fauna would get mingled with northern forms, all of which seem to be lost to us even in a fossil state, the physical conditions of the British area having been of a kind, that no broad and thick sediments were deposited in which the bones of mammals could be preserved.

It is, however, possible, and indeed probable, that we get a glimpse of part of this mammalian life preserved in a curiously mingled fauna, the remains of which lie buried at the base of various members of the Crag. I