

many and keenly felt. In the order of the Primates they are greater than in many other orders, chiefly because of the arboreal life of our ancestors. The explanation is very simple. It is really due to a long chain of favourable coincidences if the skeleton of a vertebrate, covered as it was with flesh and skin, and containing still more perishable viscera, is petrified at all. The body may be devoured by other creatures, and its bones scattered about ; or it rots away and crumbles to pieces. Many animals hide in thick undergrowth when death approaches them ; and, leading an almost entirely arboreal life, the Primates are especially likely to disappear without being fossilized. It is only when the body is quickly covered with sand, or is embedded in suitable mud containing lime and silica, that the process of petrification can come to pass. Even then it is only by great good luck that we come across such a fossil. Very few countries have been searched systematically, and the areas that have been