skeletal elements composing the wrist and the ankle regions; and, lastly, the same five fingers and toes.

The arrangement of these bones, peculiar and often complicated, but everywhere essentially the same in all the Tetrapoda, is a striking evidence that man is a descendant from the oldest pentadactyle Amphibia of the Carboniferous period. In man the pentadactyle type has been better preserved by constant heredity than in many other Mammalia, notably the Ungulata.

The oldest Carboniferous Amphibia, the armour-clad Stegocephali, and especially the remarkable Branchiosauri discovered by Credner, are now regarded by all competent zoologists as the indubitable common ancestral group of all Tetrapoda, comprising both Amphibia and Amniota. But whence this most remote group of Tetrapoda? That difficult question is answered by the marvellous progress of modern palæontology, and the answer is in complete harmony with