

Ganoids and the oldest Amphibia. With this chain of successive groups of Vertebrata, constructed anatomically, the palæontological facts agree most satisfactorily. Selachians and Ganoids existed in the Silurian times, Dipnoi in the Devonian, Amphibia in the Carboniferous, Reptilia in the Permian, Mammalia in the Trias. These are historical facts of first rank. They connote in the most convincing manner that remarkable ascending scale in the series of vertebrates for our knowledge of which we are indebted to the works of Cuvier and Blainville, Meckel, Johannes Mueller and Gegenbaur, Owen and Huxley. The historical succession of the classes and orders of the Vertebrata in the course of untold millions of years is definitely fixed by the concordance of those leading works, and this invaluable acquisition is much more important for the foundation of our human pedigree than would be a complete series of all possible skeletons of Primates.