

is of great closeness and durability, it has effectually preserved whatever it has covered or enveloped. The caves have, in many instances, served as dens for predatory beasts, like the hyena, cave-lion, and cave-bear, which sometimes dragged their prey into these recesses. In other cases, they have been merely holes whither different animals crawled to die, or into which they fell or were swept by inundations. Under whatever circumstances the animals left their remains in these subterranean retreats, the bones have been covered up and preserved. Still we must admit that, after all, only a small fraction of the animals of the time would enter the caves, and therefore that the evidence of the cavern-deposits, profoundly interesting and valuable as it is, presents us with merely a glimpse of one aspect of the life of the land.

*e. Deposits of mineral-springs.*—The deposits of mineral matter, resulting from the evaporation of mineral springs on the surface of the ground, serve as receptacles for occasional leaves, land-shells, insects, dead birds, small mammals, and other remains of the plant and animal life of the land (pp. 622, 808).

*f. Volcanic deposits.*—Sheets of lava and showers of volcanic dust may entomb terrestrial organisms (pp. 343, 985). It is obvious, however, that even over the areas wherein volcanoes occur and continue active, they can only to a very limited extent entomb and preserve the flora and fauna of the land.

2. In the Sea.—In the next place, if we turn to the sea, we find certainly more favorable conditions for the preservation of organic forms, but also many circumstances which operate against it.

*a. Littoral deposits.*—While the level of the land remains stationary, there can be but little effective entombment of marine organisms in littoral deposits; for only a limited accumulation of sediment will be formed until subsidence of the sea-floor takes place. In the trifling beds of sand or gravel thrown up by storms above the limits of ordinary wave-action on a stationary shore, only the harder and more durable forms of life, such as the stronger gasteropods and lamellibranchs, which can withstand the triturating effects of the beach-waves, are likely to remain uneffaced (p. 762).

*b. Deeper-water terrigenous deposits.*—Below tide-marks,