

and especially Canada, in Sweder, Norway, and Northern Scotland, they have never been covered, and form the surface rocks. The Azoic rocks are chiefly granite, gneiss, syenite, and granular limestone. Whenever you come across any of these rocks, you are looking at some of the earliest of created things. So far, no remains of life have been discovered in the Azoic rocks, with the exception of a fossil found by Dr. Dawson of Montreal, which he calls Eozoon Canadense, or "Dawn Animal," but some geologists doubt the organic nature of the fossil.

Paleozoic Age.—The word Paleozoic means "ancient life." Its rocks are piled up over the Azoic, and are composed chiefly of lime and sand stones. Life became abundant in this age, judging by its fossils, which are chiefly sea shells and the remains of strange looking fish. But undoubtedly, the chief characteristic of the age was its abundant and magnificent vegetation, which covered part of the earth with vast forests and jungles. It was during this time that the great coal beds of the world originated, coal, being vegetable matter changed into mineral. According to most geologists, the great continents of the earth were at this period, raised up from the depths of the water, and covered with a gigantic vegetation. Then, after a vast length of time, the continents sank down under the ocean, and the grand forests of the past, were covered with massive sand banks, mud, and sediment, which crushed together the vegetable matter, and reduced it in time to the condition of coal. Then the continents rose again from the waters, and new forest flourished on the graves of grandest vegetation that the world ever bore. The geological record of this period, is full of interest to the student.

Mesozoic Age.—The word Mesozoic means "middle life." Its fossils approach towards that of the existing world, although all the species are extinct. It was the age of Reptiles and great Sea Monsters. Some of these Sea creatures were of tremendous size—18, 25, 40 and 50 feet long. Their names are equally long and puzzling but it is well worth mastering them for the purpose of understanding the history of the period. The land also had its terrible inhabitants which are now all past and gone. The Iguanodon 30 feet long, the Megalosaur, a Kangaroo like lizard of awful rapacity, and the Ceteosaurus, 50 feet long and with a thigh bone 64 inches in length. During this age, the Rocky Mountains, and Andes, Himalayas, and Alps, received a considerable part of their elevation, and the uplifting of the Arctic regions, produced no doubt, a great change in the climate of the world.

Cenozoic Age.—The word Cenozoic means "recent life." The organic remains of this period, bring us close to existing animal life, although as a rule, the species were much larger than those at present on the earth. There was the hog like Palæotherium, the Dinotherium or monster Kangaroo, the Glyptodon, a gigantic turtle, and the Silvatherium or horned deer, supposed to have been of elephantine size, and of great power and swiftness. The Elephant of this age was much larger than the largest modern species, and roved over Britain, Northern Europe, and Asia, even to the Arctic shores. Indeed England had strange visitors in those distant days. Gigantic Hyenas, Bears, Elephants and

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