of the eyes is different; while *Proscorpius*, of the upper Silurian rocks of North America, is also of the same general type. With *Palaeophonus* of the Silurian of Scotland and Gotland, we reach, however, a more primitive type, in which the walking-legs gradually taper to thin extremities, terminating in simple claws or points, although the palpi still form large pincers.

Such is the palaeontological history of scorpions; and very remarkable history it is, seeing that most of the Palaeozoic types are almost as highly specialised as their existing descendants, and thus show that we should have to go much farther back before we reached the ancestral type. With the exception of certain cockroach-like insects, which occur in the middle Silurian, the scorpions are indeed the oldest land animals, and are therefore entitled, in spite of their unpleasant propensities, to our utmost respect.

We have said that in Palaeozoic times there existed a south equatorial land-girdle distinguished from the land of the northern hemisphere (from which it was probably isolated) by the peculiar character of its flora; and as the Palaeozoic scorpions inhabited the northern land, it is scarcely likely that they were also found in the southern zone. During the Secondary epoch the latter zone appears to have been split up, and the continental areas consequently assumed some approach to their present configuration. The descendants of the ancient Palaeozoic scorpions began soon after, in all probability, to migrate southwards, along the different lines of communication; and we thus can readily understand why some of the existing sub-families are represented in such widely separated areas as India, Africa, South America, and Australia, without resorting to any comparatively recent connection between these countries.