

Comparative anatomy and embryology owe much to the study of fossils, especially a greatly enlarged knowledge of the vertebrate skull, the limb arches and the limbs, together with the law of brain growth, found to exist among extinct mammals and other vertebrates, which law Marsh, its discoverer, states as follows:—"All tertiary mammals have small brains. There was also a gradual increase in the size of the brain during this period. The increase was confined mainly to the cerebral hemispheres, or higher portions of the brain. In some groups the convolutions of the brain have gradually become more complicated. In some the cerebellum and olfactory lobes have even diminished in size." Since this general statement further research has shown "that the same general law of brain growth holds good for the birds and reptiles from the Secondary epoch to the present time," and the facts so far gathered indicate that as a general law this will hold good for all extinct vertebrates.

To Archæology also, Palæontology has rendered great service in extending our knowledge of the antiquity of the human race. Evidences which after having long accumulated to be rejected merely because not in accord with accepted theories, have been during this century re-examined and added to, until now they are strong enough to make the conclusion inevitable that the occurrence of the remains of man in the Pliocene now fairly establishes the fact of the existence of man in that period.

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## REPORT OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL BRANCH.

(Read March 13, 1890.)

The leaders of the Conchological Branch have to report that they have personally been able to do little work in the field during the past season, and they are not aware that any other members of the club resident in Ottawa have taken up the study. This is greatly to be regretted for, as will be seen from the present report, much remains to be done before the list of Ottawa mollusca can be considered complete.

A very prolific locality (the word between St. Louis dam and the Experimental Farm) was visited by the writers on one or two occasions, and in moss collected there many interesting though minute land