

worms, Suctorial-worms, Round-worms, &c). We are, therefore, without any geological evidence of the former existence of *Scolecids*; though no doubt can be reasonably entertained but that the group dates back to times long anterior to the present fauna.

d. *Annulosa*:—Many of the lower Annulose animals, such as Leeches, Earthworms, and Errant Annelides, possess no structure by which we could expect to get direct evidence of their past existence. The last of these, however, have left ample traces of their former presence in the form of burrows or tracks upon the mud or sea-sand; and the so-called "Tubicular" Annelides are well represented by their investing tubes. In the case of the higher *Annulosa* another law steps in to regulate their comparative abundance as fossils. Most of the fossiliferous formations have been deposited in water, and of necessity, therefore, most fossils are the remains of animals naturally inhabiting water. As most deposits, also, are not only aqueous but are further marine, most fossils are those referable to sea-animals. It follows, therefore, that the remains of air-breathing animals, whether these be terrestrial or aerial, can only be preserved in an accidental manner, so to speak, as by falling or being blown into the water; except in the rare instances in which old land-surfaces have been buried up by sediment and thus partially kept for our inspection. In accordance with this law, the most abundant and important fossil Annulose Animals are *Crustaceans*; for these are not only generally aquatic in their habits, but are provided with a resisting shell or "exoskeleton." The air-breathing classes of the *Myriapods* (Centipedes and Millipedes), the *Arachnida* (Spiders and Scorpions) and the *Insecta* or true Insects, on the other hand, have been much less commonly and completely preserved; though many of them are perfectly capable of being fossilised. Almost all such remains as we have, however, of these three great classes are the remains of isolated individuals which may have been accidentally drowned; or else they occur in hollow trees, or in fragments of ancient soils, or in vegetable accumulations such as coal and peat. There are, however, some aquatic insects, and there are many insects the larvæ of which inhabit water; and we have not infrequent instances of their occurring as fossils.

e. *Mollusca*:—This sub-kingdom requires little notice, since the greater number of its members possess hard structures capable of being readily preserved in a fossil condition. Thus, the 'horny or