

PREFACE.

SINCE the publication of Dr Wallace's book on the geographical distribution of animals in general, the only works which have appeared relating to Mammals from the same point of view are the small volume by Mr F. E. Beddard and the series of papers by Mr W. L. Sclater, referred to in the Appendix.

Both the latter admittedly take but little account of fossil forms; and there is accordingly ample room for a work which should collect and arrange the information on this subject, and indicate the deductions which may be drawn therefrom. This task has been attempted in the present volume. The subject is, however, so vast, and the information relating to it scattered through so many publications, that it is probable many points of interest or importance have not been noticed. From the mode of arrangement of the work, a considerable amount of repetition was inevitable.

The long time that the volume was in the press will account for its containing no allusion to certain papers which have appeared recently. It may therefore be mentioned here that recent discoveries have shown a slight intermixture of northern types in the Palæozoic flora of Argentina, so that the isolation of the northern and southern floras is not so nearly complete as was supposed. A paper just published by M. Boule¹ indi-

¹ *Comptes Rendus*, vol. cxxii (1896).

cates that the relationship between *Cadurcotherium* and the Astrapotheria is closer than suggested on page 82. Hence there is further evidence that South America received its Tertiary ungulates by way of Africa. The extinct Patagonian birds *Phororhachis* and *Brontornis* appear, according to Mr C. W. Andrews, to be nearly allied to the existing South American seriema (*Cariama*), and since *Filholornis*, of the French Phosphorites, has been shown by Prof. A. Milne-Edwards to be related to the hoatzin (*Opisthocomus*), it would seem that all these peculiar South American types of birds have a history somewhat similar to that of the extinct ungulates of the same region.

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