

The *plesiosaurus*, discovered by Mr. Conybeare, must have appeared even more monstrous than the *ichthyosaurus*. It had similar limbs, but rather more elongated and flexible; its shoulder and pelvis were stronger, its vertebræ were nearly assimilated to those of lizards, but what distinguished it from all oviparous and viviparous quadrupeds, was a slender neck as long as its body, composed of thirty vertebræ and upwards, a number greater than that of the neck of all other animals, rising from the trunk like the body of a serpent, and terminated by a very small head, in which are to be found all essential characteristics of those of lizards.

If any thing could justify those hydras and other monsters which are so often drawn on the monuments of the middle ages, it would assuredly be this *plesiosaurus*.(1)

Five species are already known, the most generally distributed (*P. dolichodeirus*) is more than twenty feet long.

A second (*P. recentior*) found in recent strata, has flatter vertebræ.

A third (*P. carinatus*) has a prominence on the lower surface of the vertebræ.

A fourth, and lastly a fifth (*P. pentagonus*) and (*P. trigonus*) have respectively five and three prominences.(2)

These two genera are every where distributed in the lias. They were discovered in England, where the lias is exposed in cliffs of great extent, and they have been also found in France and Germany.

With them there existed two species of crocodiles, whose bones are also deposited in the lias,

(1) See Recherches, v. 5, 2nd part, pp. 475, et seq.

(2) Ib. v. 5, 2nd part, pp. 485 and 486.