

of North America. Among Acalephs, the *Berenice* of New Holland. Among Polypi, the true *Fungidæ* in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, the *Renilla* in the Atlantic, etc.

Many more examples might be quoted, were our knowledge of the geographical distribution of the lower animals more precise. But these will suffice to show that whether high or low, aquatic or terrestrial, there are types of animals remarkable for their peculiar structure which are circumscribed within definite limits, and this localization of special structures is a striking confirmation of the view expressed already in another connection, that the organization of animals, whatever it is, may be adapted to various and identical conditions of existence, and can in no way be considered as originating from these conditions.

SECTION XII.

SERIAL CONNECTION IN THE STRUCTURE OF ANIMALS WIDELY SCATTERED UPON THE SURFACE OF OUR GLOBE.

Ever since I have become acquainted with the reptiles inhabiting different parts of the world, I have been struck with a remarkable fact, not yet noticed by naturalists, as far as I know, and of which no other class exhibits such striking examples. This fact is that among Saurians, as well as among Betrachians, there are families, the representatives of which, though scattered all over the globe, form the most natural connected series, in which every link represents one particular degree of development. The *Scincoids*,¹ among Saurians, are one of these families. It contains about one hundred species, referred by Duméril and Bibron to thirty-one genera, which, in the development of their organs of locomotion, exhibit most remarkable combinations, illustrated in a diagram, on the following page.

Fully to appreciate the meaning of this diagram, it ought to be remembered, that the animals belonging to this family are considered here in two different points of view. In the first place, their zoölogical relations to one another are expressed by the various combinations of the structure of their legs; some having four legs, and these are the most numerous, others only two legs, which are always the hind legs, and others still no legs at all. Again these legs may have only one toe, or two, three, four, or five toes, and the number of toes may vary between the fore and hind legs. The classification adopted here is based upon these characters. In

¹ For the characters of the family, see DUMÉRIL
et BIBRON, *Erpétologie générale*, vol. 5, p. 511.

See also COCTEAU, *Etudes sur les Scincoïdes*, Paris,
1836, 4to. fig.