

not found in neighboring streams. The garpikes (*Lepidosteus*) of the American rivers afford a striking example of this kind.

409. A very influential cause in the distribution of aquatic animals is the depth of the water; so that several zoölogical zones, receding from the shore, may be defined, according to the depth of water; much in the same manner as we mark different zones at different elevations in ascending mountains, (398.) The Mollusks, and even the Fishes found near the shore in shallow water, differ, in general, from those living at the depth of twenty or thirty feet, and these again are found to be different from those which are met with at a greater depth. Their coloring, in particular, varies, according to the quantity of light they receive, as has also been shown to be the case with the marine plants.

410. It is sometimes the case that one or more animals are found upon a certain chain of mountains, and not elsewhere; as, for instance, the Mountain Sheep (*Ovis montana*) upon the Rocky Mountains, or the Chamois and the Ibex upon the Alps. The same is also the case on some of the wide plains or prairies. This, however, does not entitle such regions to be considered as having an independent fauna, any more than a lake is to be regarded as having a peculiar fauna, exclusive of the animals of the surrounding country, merely because some of the species found in the lake may not ascend the rivers emptying into it. It is only when the whole group of animals inhabiting such a region has such peculiarities as to give it a distinct character, when contrasted with animals found in surrounding regions, that it is to be regarded as a separate fauna. Such, for example, is the fauna of the great steppe, or plain of Gobi, in Asia; and such indeed that of the chain of the Rocky Mountains may prove to be, when the animals inhabiting them shall be better known.