

of Arabia, which are more allied to those of Africa than to those of Asia.

439. The tropical fauna of Asia, comprising the two peninsulas of India and the Isles of Sunda, is not less marked. It is the country of the gibbons, the red orang, the royal tiger, the gavial, and a multitude of peculiar birds. Among the fishes, the family of Chetodonts is most numerously represented. Here also are found those curious spiny fishes, whose intricate gills suggested the name Labyrinthici, by which they are known. Fishes with tufted gills are more numerous here than in other seas. The insects and mollusks are no less strongly characterized. Among others is the nautilus, the only living representative of the great family of large, chambered-shells which prevailed so extensively over other types, in former geological ages.

440. The large Island of Madagascar has its peculiar fauna, characterized by its makis and its curious rodents. It is also the habitat of the Aya-aya. Polynesia, exclusive of New Holland, furnishes a number of very curious animals, which are not found on the Asiatic continent. Such are the herbivorous bats, and the Galeopithecus or flying Maki. The Galapago islands, only a few hundred miles from the coast of Peru, have a fauna exclusively their own, among which gigantic land-tortoises are particularly characteristic.

SECTION III.

CONCLUSIONS.

441. From the survey we have thus made of the distribution of the Animal Kingdom, it follows :

1st. Each grand division of the globe has animals which are either wholly or for the most part peculiar to it. These groups of animals constitute the faunas of different regions.