

CHAPTER XIV.

MIGRATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ORGANISMS.
CHOROLOGY AND THE ICE PERIOD OF THE EARTH.

Chorological Facts and Causes.—Origin of most Species in one Single Locality : “Centres of Creation.”—Distribution by Migration.—Active and Passive Migrations of Animals and Plants.—Flying Animals.—Analogies between Birds and Insects.—Bats.—Means of Transport.—Transport of Germs by Water and by Wind.—Continual Change of the Area of Distribution by Elevations and Depressions of the Ground.—Chorological Importance of Geological Processes.—Influence of the Change of Climate.—Ice or Glacial Period.—Its Importance to Chorology.—Importance of Migrations for the Origin of New Species.—Isolation of Colonists.—Wagner’s Law of Migration.—Connection between the Theory of Migration and the Theory of Selection.—Agreement of its Results with the Theory of Descent.

As I have repeatedly said, but cannot too much emphasize, the actual value and invincible strength of the Theory of Descent does not lie in its explaining this or that single phenomenon, but in the fact that it explains *all* biological phenomena, that it makes *all* botanical and zoological series of phenomena intelligible in their relations to one another. Hence every thoughtful investigator is the more firmly and deeply convinced of its truth the more he advances from single biological observations to a general view of the whole domain of animal and vegetable life.