of birds. Others had four or even five toes, and attained an enormous size, for a single footprint sometimes measures twenty inches in length.

The ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs, which played so foremost a part in the reptilian life of Mesozoic time, had their Triassic forerunners (Ichthyosaurus, Nothosaurus, Simosaurus, Neusticosaurus). Of higher grade were the earliest types of crocodiles, the remains of which have been detected in Triassic rocks. They belong to an extremely generalized type, and appear to have been widely distributed. Stagonolepis occurs among the other reptilian remains at Elgin,[5] while Phytosaurus (Belodon) has been obtained in Germany, India, and North America.

It has been supposed that evidence of the existence of Triassic birds is furnished by the three-toed footprints above referred to. But probably these are mostly, if not entirely, the tracks of deinosaurs, the absence of two pairs of prints in each track being accounted for by the bird-like habit of the animals in the use of their hind feet in walking. One of the most noteworthy facts in the palæontology of the Trias is the occurrence in this system of the first relics of mammalian life. These consist of detached teeth and lower jaw-bones, referred to small marsupial animals allied to the Myrmecobius, or Banded Ant-eater of New South Wales. The European genus is Microlestes (Hypsiprymnopsis). In the Trias of North Carolina an allied form has been described under the name of Dromatherium.

§ 2. Local Development

Britain.[6]—Triassic rocks occupy a large area of the low

[5] On the Crocodilian remains of the Elgin Sandstone see Huxley, Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc. 1859; Mem. Geol. Surv. Monograph iii. 1877.

[6] See E. Hull, "Permian and Triassic Rocks of England," Geological Survey Memoirs, 1869; H. B. Woodward, Geol. Mag. 1874, p. 385; "Geology of East