

European region, or lingered only on its southern borders. In England, toward the end of the Pliocene period, the climate, if we may judge of it from the plants preserved in the Cromer Forest-bed, had come to be very much what it is to-day. Among the vegetable remains found in that deposit are those of many of the familiar forest trees still living in the southeast of England. Some of our common wild-flowers and water-plants had now made their appearance, such as the buttercup, marsh-marigold, chickweed, milfoil, marestail, dock, sorrel, pondweed, sedge, cotton-grass, reed and royal fern.⁹³

The fauna of the Pliocene period still retained a number of the now extinct types of earlier time, such as the



Fig. 444.—*Elephas meridionalis*, Nesti. Crown of molar (A).

Deinotherium and *Mastodon*. It was specially characterized also by troops of rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, and elephants, the *Elephas meridionalis* being a distinctive form; by large herds of herbivora, including numerous forms of gazelle, antelope, deer, now mostly extinct, and types intermediate between still living genera. Among these were some colossal ruminants, including a species of giraffe and the extinct giraffe-like genera *Helladotherium* and *Samotherium*, as well as other types met with among the Siwalik beds of India (*Sivatherium*, Fig. 453, *Bramatherium*). The *Equidæ* were represented by the existing

⁹³ C. Reid, "Pliocene Deposits of Britain," Mem. Geol. Surv. 1890, pp. 185, 231.