http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/Bridgewater-Treatises/index.html

animals found in the secondary strata are estimated to have been seventy feet in length, and they had extremities. But the thigh and leg did not exceed eight feet in length, while the foot extended to six feet; a proportion, altogether, which implies that the extremities assisted the animal to crawl, rather than that they were capable of bearing its weight, as the extremities of the mammalia. However, we find that in the larger terrestrial animals, the material of the bones is dense, and that their cavities are filled up; the diameters of the bones of the extremities, with their spines and processes, being remarkably large. Nothing can be conceived more clumsy than the bones of the megatherium. Hence it really appears that nature has exhausted her resources with respect to this material; and that living and vascular bone could not be moulded into a form to sustain the bulk and weight of an animal much superior to the elephant, mastodon, and megatherium.*

* The subject may be illustrated in this manner:—"A soft "stone projecting from a wall, may make a stile strong enough "to bear a person's weight; but if it were necessary to double the "length of the stile, the thickness must be more than doubled, "or a freestone substituted; and were it necessary to make this "freestone project twice as far from the wall, it would not "be strong enough to bear a proportioned increase of weight, "even if it were doubled in thickness: granite must be placed "in its stead; and even the granite would not be capable of sus- "taining four times the weight which the soft stone bore in the