

(4.) Great length of time naturally helps escape from these barriers, for in the lapse of years accidents are likely to occur enabling species to evade difficulties which would in ordinary circumstances prove insurmountable. Hence the occurrence of a living species in a fossil state will always justify the expectation of its having a wide local distribution, and *vice versa*.

(5.) Where barriers of depth and temperature do not check distribution there seems in ordinary circumstances no limit to universality of distribution.

(6.) There actually are existing species whose distribution is universal, no barriers having availed to stop their passage.

(7.) There still is no trace even in these oldest and most widely distributed species of essential lasting and progressive change. I do not wish to overpress this point, presenting as it does merely negative evidence. I do not assert that there are no species of Mollusca which have thus changed. I only say there are some, even many, of the oldest and most widely distributed species, which have not done so, and that so far as I have had opportunity of observation, no proof has reached me of progressive permanent and essential change in Molluscan development.