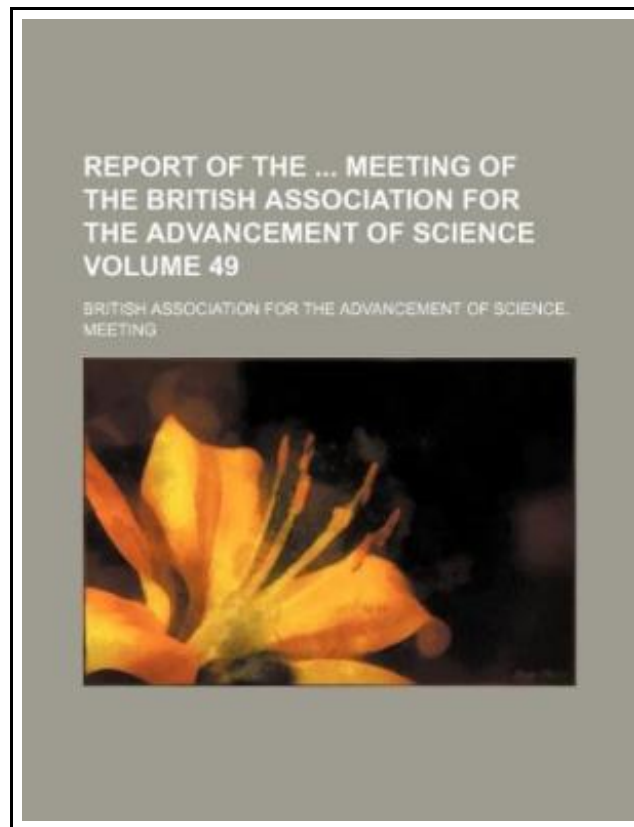


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Rarebookclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1879 Excerpt: .of isolated origin; and the most aberrant of all bats, the Vampire (Degmodus), is rather widely distributed in South America. Again, with regard to the Lemur group, the most absolutely exceptional is the Aye-Aye (Cheiromys), which, on the hypothesis supposed, has remained persistently at the head-quarters of the group, i.e. in Madagascar. Even, however, if no exception existed to the co-existence now of singularity of form and isolation and remoteness of situation, we could not safely draw any decided conclusion from such facts, because fossil remains show us that forms which have now a very limited distribution, were either widely spread in earlier times, or existed in regions very remote from those they now inhabit. Thus, in Eocene times there existed in Europe true opossums (now confined to America), Tapirs, and a form like the African Potto before mentioned. In Miocene times we had in Europe long-armed apes (creatures now found only in Eastern Asia), with the now exclusively African Secretary Bird and Cape AntEater (Orycteroptis). In the same period the Orang--or a nearly allied form--seems to have ranged over India. What are more emphatically old-world forms than the camel, horse and elephant, with the typical porcupine? Yet all these existed in America in Pliocene times. Did we know the Tapir in only one of the two widely-separated stations in which it dwells to-day, we might well deem its evolution to be due to migration and isolation. But we know from palaeontology that it existed in...



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