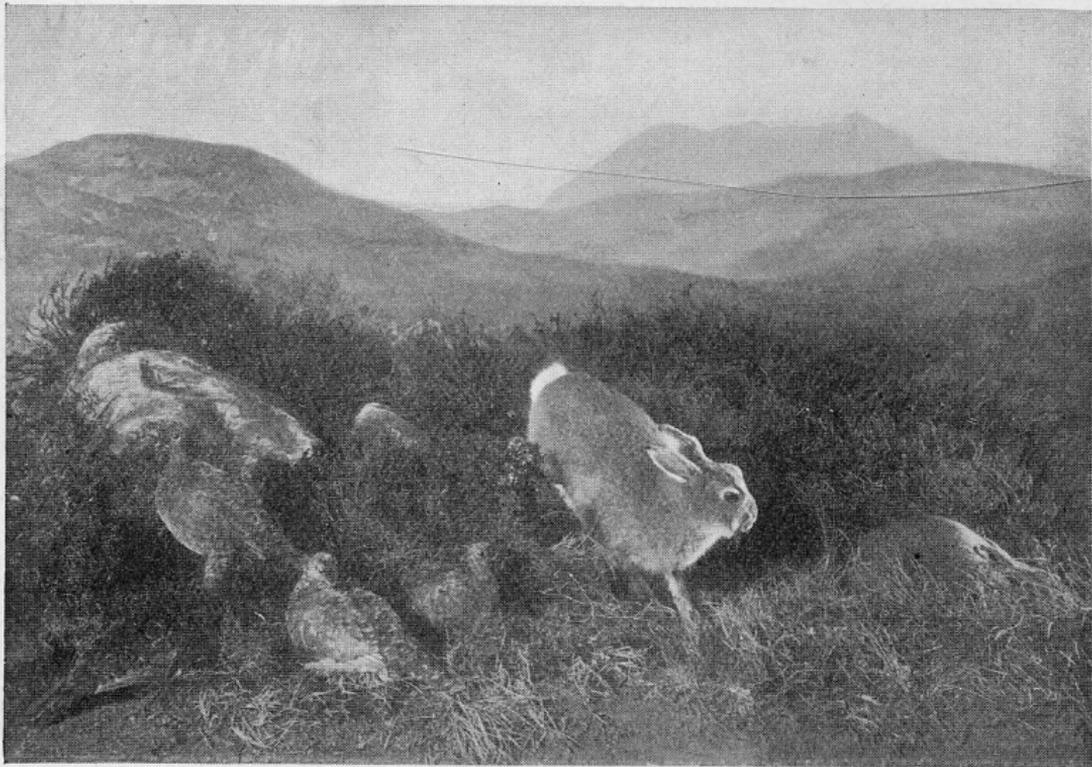


EUROPEAN ANIMALS



IRISH SCENERY WITH THE IRISH HARE (*Lepus timidus*) AND GROUSE (*Lagopus scoticus*) IN THE FOREGROUND. PHOTOGRAPHED FROM A LIFE GROUP IN THE DUBLIN MUSEUM.

EUROPEAN ANIMALS:

THEIR GEOLOGICAL HISTORY AND
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

BY

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PREFACE.

THE method of treatment of the subject discussed in this work was adopted by me when delivering the Swiney Lectures on Geology last year, at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Dr. Wallace's remark that we may be enabled, by an accurate knowledge of any group of birds or insects and of their geographical distribution, to map out the islands and continents of a former epoch, encouraged me to attempt to apply his ideas in dealing with our own Continent, and to extend them to other groups of animals.

Professor E. Forbes was the first to recognise the significance of the geographical distribution of living animals in deciphering their past wanderings, and I have approached the investigation of the geological history of our fauna in the manner indicated by him. I thought that this method would convey to the general reader, as well as to the student, a clear conception of the nature of the problems to be solved.

I trust that this work will stimulate the researches of the student of systematic Biology and that it may also prove acceptable as a contribution to the past geographical history of our Continent.

Professor Ray Lankester, the Director of the British Museum (Natural History), urged me to publish my lectures, and promised me every facility in suitably illustrating this work by photographs taken from specimens in his charge. I have