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On the Antiquity of the Caverns and Cavern Life of the Ohio Valley, Vol. 1 (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By N S Shaler

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from On the Antiquity of the Caverns and Cavern Life of the Ohio Valley, Vol. 1 Cavern animals, always interesting, have acquired an importance quite unexpected by their first students since the questions concerning the origin of organic species assumed their present shape. Whenever we find any animal, especially a highly organized form, living in the perpetual darkness and uniform temperature of a cavern, we are entitled to look for something which marks its departure from the usual conditions of life. If organic forms are the direct product of their environment, then the change from the sunlit upper world to the cavern conditions must lead to modifications of the most important character. These changes have, in fact, been found, and as a general rule, they most affect those parts of the body which are the most directly concerned with the phenomena of the outer world. Organs of sight, or organs which may replace sight, are the most affected. We see here organs like the vertebrate eye, which traces its development down all the infinite ages to...



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