

REPTILES.—Some are believed to grow as long as they live, are very slow in growth, very long-lived, and very variable in average adult size; e.g. Chelonia and Crocodilia; others, as the Lacertilia, are much more constant in size, and are believed to be shorter-lived.

Crocodyles, some of the sacred crocodiles of India, have been known since the Conquest.

- * *Tortoise*, from the Galapagos, was inferred to be 175 years old from its rate of growth in the Zoological Gardens, London. (Grindon.)
- * *Tortoise*, from the Cape, which had been in the Governor's garden for 80 years; it was believed to be 200 years old. (Communicated by T. Bell, Esq., F.R.S.)

BIRDS.—Their growth is limited; they appear to get feeble at a certain age, varying in species, and like mammals may die of 'old age.'

- * *Parroquet*, 120 years old at death, lived at Florence for 100 years in a noble family. (Fontenelle, quoted by Flourens, 'Human Longevity,' trans. by C. Martel.)
- * *Parrot*, ? sp. 120 years old at death, lived in the family of Mr. W. for 80 years; it was said to be 40 when brought to Mr. W.'s great-grandfather. (Communicated.)
- ? *Goose*, 100 years. (Willoughby.)
- ? *Falcon*, large species, 162 years, from inscription on an attached ring. It was brought from the Cape in 1772. (Hufeland, 'The Art of Prolonging Life.')
- ? *Raven*, 180 years. (Buffon.)

The following seven facts were communicated by Mr. Darwin:—

- * *Saxicola sialis*, for 10 years and more was observed to build its nest in same spot. ('Amer. Jour. Sci.' vol. 30, p. 81.)
- * *Muscicapa fusca*, 9 years; same observation.
- * *Turdus*, for a longer period.
- * *Falco borealis*, 12 years.
- * *Starling*, for 8 years the same lame specimen was observed by Eckmark.
- * *Kestrel*, for 6 years the same specimen was seen.
- * *Goldfinch*, lived 23 years in confinement. (Montagu.)