large that their sac would contain the body of an elephant. The flesh of the sepia was esteemed a great luxury by the ancients. In Plate VIII., fig. 1. is the sepia octopedia, an inhabitant of the British seas. Fig. 2. is the beak of a species of sepia, the calmar; these are found fossil, and are called Rhyncolites. Fig. 3. is the nautilus pompilius or pearly nautilus. Great uncertainty prevailed respecting the true character of the nautilus, which has been removed by a scientific examination of the body of one of these animals caught by George Bennet, Esq., and of which an interesting account has been recently published by Mr. Richard Owen, illustrated by beautiful engravings. It should appear from Mr. Owen's account, that the organization of this animal is in many respects less perfect than that of several species of sepia that have no external cell: it had ninety-two arms or tentaculæ. Fig. 3. is taken from Mr. Owen's first plate, but greatly reduced; it is chiefly intended to show the position of the animal in the shell. It is a section representing the interior of the shell divided into chambers, and the siphunculus passing through them. The nautilus pompilius is not uncommon as a fossil shell. It may be seen both recent and fossil in most museums. We shall now proceed to notice the principal genera of chambered shells, not in the numerical order of the plate, but as they approach the nearest to the form of the nautilus.*

The SPIRULA (fig. 11.) is both a recent and a fossil shell: the turns or whorls of the shell do not touch. The spirula is an inhabitant of trophical seas; the animal resembles that species of sepia called the seiche or common sepia. The shell is almost entirely inclosed in the sac. Indeed, it appears from its structure, that the animal could not be contained within the outer cell.†

The AMMONITE (fig. 6.) of which there are numerous species, differs greatly from the chambered nautilus, the whorls or turns being all distinct, and in the same plane, and the cells are very small. The siphunculus is placed near the outer edge of the shell. In many species, the cells are divided by indented partitions, as represented in fig. 7.: in other species the cells are undulated. Some ammonites in the vicinity of Bath are eighteen inches or more in diameter. The shell must have been internal, and the animal that contained it very large. Ammonites, though so abundant in the secondary strata, have not been found in a recent state, except the account can be relied upon, of their having been discovered in the Pacific Ocean.

The SCAPHITE resembles an ammonite partly unrolled. A very remarkable specimen of one recently discovered in France is represented fig. 4. It is not improbable, that many internal shells were composed rather of a corneous substance than of shell, and were capable of being coiled or folded by the will of the animal.

Fig. 8. is a straight chambered shell called a BACULITE.

Fig. 12., the ORTHOCERATITE, is a straight chambered shell resembling ammonites unrolled, but the cells are divided by concave parti-

* The animal that inhabits the thin open shell called the paper nautilus, but more properly the argonauta, is also a species of sepia: it is common in the Mediterranean. It is very rarely found fossil.

† According to Lamarck, the animal, beside the eight arms of the sepia (see fig. 1. plate 8.), has two longer arms or feelers: in this respect it resembles the Calmar, which is common on the coasts of Europe.