

imbedded: in the oolitic limestone the shells are commonly changed into calcareous spar, and their cavities lined with crystals; the corals also have undergone a similar transmutation. The ammonites and nautili frequently have their chambers filled with spar of various colours, and when cut and polished exhibit highly interesting and beautiful sections of the internal structure. In the lias shales, ammonites are met with in great profusion; in some examples the pearly coat of the shell alone remains, as in these brilliant examples from Watchett: in this specimen, collected by Mrs. Murchison, the shell and all its delicate partitions or septa are converted into pyrites, and the cells filled with white calcareous spar. The nacreous, horny sheath and ink-bag of the belemnite (p. 317) are frequently preserved. In the limestone the bones have the same rich sienna tint as those of Tilgate Forest; but in the lias they are of a dark-bluish grey or black, and often coated with sulphuret of iron. The most remarkable circumstance relating to the remains of the reptiles is the state of apposition in which the bones of the skeletons are commonly found. The entire osseous frame-work, from the extremity of the beak to the last vertebra of the tail, and the terminal bones of the paddles, often remain in contact; a fact proving that the body was engulfed before decomposition had far advanced, and that the carcass had not been long drifted or abraded by the waves; the