

PALÆONTOLOGY,*
OR
FOSSIL ZOOLOGY.

“ The very ground on which we tread, and the mountains which surround us, may be regarded as vast tumuli, in which the organic remains of a former world are enshrined.”—*Parkinson's Org. Rem.* Vol. I.

THE recent species of the Animal Kingdom exceed one hundred thousand, while those known in a fossil state scarcely amount to ten thousand; yet the latter comprise examples of most of the classes and families, and many of the genera and species, of the beings which still inhabit the lands and waters of our planet. Although our notice of these remains must necessarily be limited to a general survey, we shall describe somewhat in detail the fossils that possess the greatest interest, and also those, which, from their extended distribution, will often be presented to the observation of the student in the course of his personal researches.

* PALÆONTOLOGY—a discourse on ancient beings.