

CHAPTER VII.

FOSSIL ANIMALCULES ; INCLUDING THE INFUSORIA, POLY-
THALAMIA,* AND FORAMINIFERA.

“ Where is the dust that has not been alive ? ”

YOUNG.

“ In the leaves of every forest, in the flowers of every garden, in the waters of every rivulet, there are worlds teeming with life, and numberless as are the glories of the firmament.”

DR. CHALMERS.

THAT those infinitesimal forms of existence, whose presence in our lakes, rivers, and streams, can only be made manifest by the aid of the microscope, should be detected in a fossil state, and that their aggregated skeletons should be found to constitute chains of hills, and the subsoil of extensive districts, and that the most stupendous monuments erected by man, should be composed of rocks resulting from the mineralized remains of animalcules, invisible to the unassisted eye, are among the most marvellous of the wonders of Geology.

* *Polythalamia*, i. e. shells having many chambers or cells.