

English student, this most interesting branch of the science, which a few years since was but little regarded in this country,* has been greatly advanced, by the liberal support afforded by the British Association of Science to the labours of Professor Owen; whose Reports on the British Fossil Reptiles and Mammalia, published in the Transactions of the Association, are alike honourable to their distinguished author and to the Institution, and render it wholly unnecessary to enter at large upon the organic remains of these grand classes of the animal kingdom. Our remarks will, therefore, be restricted to a very general notice of the mineralized relics of Reptiles, Birds, and Mammalia; and descriptions of such characteristic examples, as will serve to illustrate the nature of the fossil remains, that may probably be presented to the notice of the collector.

* It is not twenty years since the publication of the "*Fossils of Tilgate Forest*," which contained numerous figures of the bones of the Wealden reptiles, previously unknown. Of this work, although eulogized by the illustrious CUVIER, with that kind and generous bearing towards every cultivator of Palæontology, however humble, for which he was as much distinguished as for his surpassing genius, not fifty copies were sold. At that time there was not an articulated skeleton of a crocodile in the Hunterian Museum, and but very few skeletons of any other reptiles, to which access could be had for comparison with the fossil bones; and many of the latter were repeatedly taken to the College of Surgeons, to compare with recent bones, without obtaining any clue, even to the place they held in the skeleton.