

cution of it would require of me. I will restrict myself to a short account of the Megatherium ; and in the brief notice of it I am about to give, I will take aid freely from the fuller description of Professor Ansted, for which he confesses himself largely indebted to Professor Owen.

THE MEGATHERIUM.

The name Megatherium means Great Beast. The remains of the huge animal so called are found in the continent of South America, in beds of the later tertiary period. It belongs to the order of Edentata, [*i. e.*, toothless, from the absence of cutting teeth,] and is most nearly allied to the sloth among existing species. The sloth is still common in the forests of South America. When it is on the ground, it moves slowly and with much difficulty. Seeing it in such a position, one would pronounce it a very unseemly creature, and most awkwardly constructed. But it never descends to the earth voluntarily. Its home is among the branches of trees, on the foliage and tender twigs of which it feeds ; and for that place of residence and mode of life, its