

arteries, whether from the effect of the progressive deposition of osseous matter, or from some change in the balance of the vital powers, shrink, and become, by degrees, obliterated. The antler dies in consequence, and, although it continues to adhere to the skull, it is only as a foreign body, and it is not long destined to remain thus attached; for the absorbent vessels are now actively employed in scooping out a groove of separation between the living and the decayed substance, at the place where the base of the antler is contiguous to the frontal bone. As soon as this has proceeded to a sufficient depth, the adhesion ceases, and the slightest concussion occasions the fall of the whole structure. After the separation of the antler, the eminence of the frontal bone, on which it stood, is left rough and uneven, like that of a fractured part: but the surrounding integuments soon close over, and cover it completely; until the period arrives when it is to be replaced by a new antler, which exhibits the same succession of phenomena, in its growth and decay, as its predecessor, only that its development is usually carried farther, the new stem being both thicker and longer, and the branches wider and more numerous. The antler of each successive year has, consequently, a different form from that of the preceding; and, when the animal has attained a certain age the extremities of the branches present broad expansions of bone, which the antlers of an earlier growth had never exhibited.

The short bony processes which extend in a perpendicular direction on the head of the camelopard, are analogous, in some of the circumstances of their formation, to the antlers of the deer, being of an osseous nature, and continuous with the frontal bone: but, in other respects, they are very different; for, instead of being annually shed, they remain through life, and continue to be covered with the integuments, which retain, at the extremities, a tuft of hair. The development of these processes, in the young animal, takes place in the same manner as that of an antler, but it reaches only to a certain point, upon attaining which, the growth is arrested, and never proceeds farther. The arteries cease to deposite superabun-