

much smaller than those of the *Tantalus ibis* of naturalists ; that they did not much exceed those of the curlew in size, that its beak resembled that of the latter, being only a little shorter in proportion to its thickness, and not at all that of the tantalus ; and, lastly, that its plumage was white with the quills marked with black, as the ancients have described it.

We are therefore convinced, that the bird which the ancient Egyptians embalmed, was by no means the *Tantalus ibis* of naturalists, that it was smaller, and that it was to be sought for in the curlew genus. We found, after some inquiries, that the mummies of the ibis which had been opened before by different naturalists, were similar to ours. Buffon says expressly that he examined several of them ; that the birds which they contained had the beak and size of curlews ; and yet he has blindly followed Perrault in taking the African tantalus for the ibis. One of those mummies opened by Buffon still exists in the museum ; it is similar to those which we have examined.

Dr Shaw, in the supplement to his *Travels* *, describes and figures with care the bones of a similar mummy. The beak, he says, was six Eng-

* Folio edition, Oxford 1746, pl. v. and pages 64-66.