

sand various forms. The bones are nearly in the same state in all these caverns : detached, scattered, partly broken, but never rolled, and consequently not brought from a distance by water ; a little lighter and less solid than recent bones, but still in their true animal nature, very little decomposed, containing much gelatine, and not at all petrified. A hardened, but still easily frangible or pulverisable earth, also containing animal parts, and sometimes blackish, forms their natural envelope. It is

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The bones of small animals, mentioned by Esper, are now no longer met with ; and, in the collections of Esper and Frischmann, Dr Goldfuss saw only a few dozen of the glutton (*Gulo*.) The contents of a peculiar conglomerate described by Esper, cannot now be determined. It consisted of a confused assemblage of very small bones, the fracture surfaces of which were fibrous, and contained also the thigh-bone and rib of a bird, which were conjectured to equal in size those of the eagle ; hence Esper inferred that the mass was made up of the remains of reptile and fish bones.

No remains have hitherto been found in these caves ; but in former times we are told that teeth of the elephant were found in the *Zahnloch*, and a vertebra, supposed of a rhinoceros, in the *Schneiderloch*. The bones of domestic animals, such as deer, roes, foxes, and badgers, frequently found in the caves, shew, at a glance, that they have come into their present situation accidentally, at a modern period.

The cave at *Mockas* formerly contained in its deepest fissures, teeth and fragments of bones of bears, associated with rolled stones, and enveloped in earthy marl. The entrance to this cave is situated on the acclivity of a hill. Goldfuss ascended to the entrance of it by means of a rope, and found in its interior many narrow, wide extended hollows, which are generally so confined that we can only visit them by creeping. Here and there there are small widenings, and frequently narrow outlets occur in the roof.

The *Zahnloch* and the *Schneiderloch*, which also contain single bones of bears, are small vaults, with wide openings, into which we can penetrate without difficulty.