

walls of the cells, and thus a natural anatomical preparation, of great beauty and interest is formed.

43. LAKE OF THE SOLFATARA.—The celebrated lake of the Solfatara lies in the Campagna between Rome and Tivoli, and is fed by a stream of thermal water which flows into it from a neighbouring pool. The water is of a high temperature, and is saturated with carbonic acid gas, which, as the water cools, is constantly escaping, and keeping up an ebullition on the surface. The formation of travertine is so rapid, that not only the vegetables and shell-fish are surrounded and destroyed by the calcareous deposition, but insects also are frequently incrustated. In these beautiful specimens of travertine from Solfatara, vegetable impressions are distinctly seen, the cavities in the mass having been occasioned by the decomposition of the vegetable matter.\* The stream that flows out of the lake fills a canal, which is conspicuous at a distance, from the line of vapour emanating from the water.

A considerable number of the edifices of both ancient and modern Rome, are constructed of travertine, derived from the quarries of Ponte Luccano, which have clearly originated from a lake of the same kind. Pæstum is also built of calcareous tufa, derived from similar deposits. “The waters of these lakes,” says Sir Humphry Davy, “have their rise at the foot of the Apennines, and hold in solution carbonic acid, which has dissolved a portion of

\* See Appendix B.