

history of our planet, we are now led to that important department of natural knowledge, Comparative Anatomy, to enable us to restore the lost forms of animal existence. I shall therefore explain the mode of induction employed by the scientific observer, in his investigation of the fossil remains of animals, by which he is enabled to ascertain the structure and habits of those creatures which have long since disappeared from the face of the earth.

10. COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.—To a person uninstructed in this science, the specimens before us would appear a confused medley of bones and of osseous fragments, impacted in solid stone; and the only knowledge he could derive from their examination would be the fact, that the stone was once in the state of sand or mud, in which, while soft, the bones had become imbedded. But in vain would he seek for further information from these precious historical monuments of Nature; to him they would appear as unintelligible as were the hieroglyphics of Egypt, before Young and Champollion explained their mysterious import. It is only by an acquaintance with the structure of the living forms around us, and by acquiring an intimate knowledge of their osseous frame-work or skeleton, that we can hope to decipher the handwriting on the rock, obtain a clue to guide us through the labyrinth of fossil anatomy, and conduct to those interesting results, which the genius