

support, formed upon one general plan, but modified in almost endless variety, in the relative magnitude, situation, and aspect of the different parts, so as to adapt itself to the various habits and functions of the diversified forms of animal life. In short, that the Author of nature has by these changes varied the same general fabric in innumerable ways; bestowed upon it a thousand different instincts and passions; adapted it to every element and climate; and to every possible variety of food and mode of existence.

From a knowledge of these principles of the correlation of the different parts of every organized being, which I have thus attempted to explain, we may understand how the scientific observer can reconstruct the entire animal fabric: and we are now prepared to enter upon that department of geology called *Palæontology*, or the science which relates to the fossil remains of the beings which inhabited our planet in former ages.

16. FOSSIL BONES.—As the bones are the least perishable parts of the animal structure, they become the most frequent, and often the only indications of the zoological characters of the more ancient epochs. Occasionally very delicate parts, such as the tunic of the eye, the membranes of the stomach, and the wings of insects, are preserved in a fossil state, examples of which we shall hereafter adduce. In the older rocks, the bones are generally mineralized, and no longer possess the white and glossy