

are pierced through the middle by a siphunculus or tube, which extends to the remotest cell. The animal is of the nature of the sepia, and occupies the outer receptacle of the shell; it maintains a connexion with the inner chambers by means of a membranous tube which lines the siphuncle. The chambers are internal air-cells, and the creature has the power of filling the siphuncle only, with a fluid secreted for the purpose, and of exhausting it; the difference thus effected in the specific gravity of the animal and its shell enables the nautilus to sink or swim at pleasure. If, therefore, you imagine a cuttle-fish placed in the outer chamber of a nautilus, with its arms extended, and having a tube connected with the siphunculus, but neither ink-bag nor bone, these being unnecessary to an animal having the protection and mechanism of a chambered shell, you will have a tolerably correct idea of the recent nautilus. The nautilus is essentially a ground-dwelling animal, feeding on the marine plants which grow at the bottom of the sea. "Rumphius states that it creeps with the shell above, and that by means of its tentacula it can make quick progress along the ground."*

21. THE AMMONITE, OR CORNU AMMONIS.—The fossils called ammonites, like the belemnites, also first appear in the secondary formations; or more properly, no traces of their remains have been found in the tertiary deposits. The ammonite, so

* Dr. Buckland's Essay.