

destruction, in substances subjected to the influence of a high temperature ; and it is clear, that if the skeletons or durable parts of any other animals were exposed to such an agency, all traces of their organization would be obliterated. It would therefore be a hopeless task to seek for any indications of animals, except of those which, like the infusoria, possessed silicious skeletons, in rocks where even the lines of stratification are melted away. When speaking of the fossils of the chalk, it was stated that the coatings of many of the flints contained myriads of the silicious skeletons of animalcules, and that some rocks are almost wholly composed of such remains (page 324).

Ehrenberg, to whom we are largely indebted for opening this new field of inquiry, has discovered the remains of this class of animals in numerous deposits. Thus the ferruginous or ochreous film or scum seen on the water of marshes, or of stagnant pools, or collected at the bottom of ditches, sometimes forming a red or yellowish mass many inches thick without any consistence, which divides upon the bare touch into minute atoms, and when dried, resembles oxide of iron, is found to be wholly composed of the shields of infusoria (*gaillonella ferruginea*). The formation of bog iron-ore is supposed to be in a great measure dependent on these animals. A ferruginous mass from a peat bog, "which appears to have owed its origin to the action of volcanic heat at the bottom of the