there much variety in the easily recognizable forms of the English chalk (I write from my own limited experience); many of the species described by M. Ehrenberg, and others, are few and far between; and the rest I (and several friends who are expert observers) have not been so fortunate as to detect. These remarks are offered, that the student may not be discouraged, if, after perusing the account of the discoveries of M. Ehrenberg, he should not be more successful than myself. At the same time, it must be remembered, that, as the fossil remains of animals and plants, of large size, are very commonly associated together in particular localities, while in other districts, traversed by similar strata, they are altogether wanting; in like manner, some deposits, as those of Richmond, may be made up of the skeletons of animalcules, while in other spots they may be sparingly distributed, or even entirely absent.

The mode of preparing the chalk for examination, together with such directions for its manipulation as experience has shown to be useful, will be given at the end of this chapter. Many of the larger corals and shells, may be seen on the surface of a piece of chalk recently broken, and viewed by reflected light; always beginning the examination with a low power (two inch object-glass), and ascending to the higher; for flint, the thinnest possible chips, immersed in oil of turpentine, will suffice.