

are among the most common and well-known fossils of the British secondary strata. In some districts, as in Yorkshire and Somersetshire, where the Ammonites abundantly prevail, they were noticed in very remote times. Local legends, ascribing their origin to swarms of snakes turned into stone by the prayers of some patron saint, are still extant, and perpetuated by the name of *snake-stones*, by which these fossils are provincially known. The Lias, near Whitby, in Yorkshire, contains immense numbers of two or three small species, one of which is figured *Lign.* 91, fig. 7.

The shells comprehended in this family are either spiral, involute, arched, or straight; their septa are deeply lobed, and have the margins foliated. The siphon is dorsal, as shown by the notch in the cast, *Lign.* 107, fig. 3<sup>a</sup>. Several hundred species have been described; they are divided into genera, which are characterized by essential modifications in the direction of the spire, and the inflections of the septa. Thus, in the *Ammonites*, *Lign.* 107, the spire is involute, and all the turns contiguous; in *Crioceras* (*curved-horn*) *Lign.* 109, fig. 2, evolute; in *Scaphites*, incurved at both extremities, *Lign.* 111; *Hamites*, siphonous, or hooked, *Lign.* 110, fig. 1; *Turritiles*, spiral, round an axis, *Lign.* 112; and in *Baculites*, straight, *Lign.* 110, fig. 2. New genera are continually being added, to embrace modifications of structure which appear to be too important for specific distinctions. I will endeavour