

## FOSSIL CRUSTACEANS.

The animals whose fossil remains we have now to consider, are characterised by their crustaceous external integument or shell, which is disposed in segments, more or less distinct, the annular portions supporting articulated limbs or appendages. They are aquatic, free, locomotive beings, and possess distinct *branchiæ*, or organs fitted for aquatic respiration. The Crab and Lobster are examples of those tribes in which the external crust is calcareous, and “coloured by a pigmental substance, diffused more or less irregularly through it; and is formed upon and by a vascular organized integument, or *corium*, which is lined by the smooth serous membrane of the visceral cavities.”\* The subdivisions of this class have relation to the forms, combinations, and proportions of the primary rings or segments of the external crust or integument, but it will not be requisite for our present purpose to enter upon this department of the subject. It may, however, be necessary to mention, that in the normal type of Crustaceans, the integument consists of twenty-one rings or segments, which form the three regions into which the body is divided; namely, the head, or *cephalic*, the *thoracic*, and the *abdominal*;

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\* Professor Owen's Lectures.