

logical investigation, which is yet but very partially explored.*

The living species of Fishes, exceed eight thousand, and those found in a fossil state, and determined by M. Agassiz, already amount to upwards of one thousand five hundred; while several hundreds are still undescribed; and the rapid progress of geological research is continually adding to the number: between five and six hundred British species are enumerated. In an initiatory work like the present, it will be necessary to restrict our remarks to an illustration of the mode in which the investigation of the fossil remains of the animals of this class should be conducted; and by the elucidation of a few leading principles, prepare the student for the perusal of works expressly devoted to this branch of Palæontology.†

* ODONTOGRAPHY; or, a Treatise on the Comparative Anatomy of the Teeth; their Physiological Relations, Mode of Development, and Microscopic Structure; illustrated by upwards of 150 Plates. By Richard Owen, F.R.S. &c. London. 1840. It is much to be regretted that but two parts of this beautiful work, containing only 288 pages of letter-press, and 90 plates, have yet appeared.

† The admirable and important work entitled "*Recherches sur les Poissons Fossiles, par Louis Agassiz,*" stands pre-eminent in this department of science; unfortunately, it is still incomplete. It is to extend to five volumes, 4to. of letter-press, and five volumes, folio, of coloured plates. It must be consulted by all who would acquire a correct view of the present state of fossil Ichthyology. *It is from this work that the commentary in the text has been chiefly derived.*