

indications may be obtained of the family, and perhaps genus, to which it belonged.*

VERTEBRÆ OF REPTILES.—The bones of the vertebral column of this class of animals, present such numerous and important modifications in the different orders and families, that reference to the works already cited must be made, for satisfactory information on this topic. From the great number of vertebræ in many reptiles, amounting in the individuals of some species to nearly two hundred, these bones are, perhaps, the most abundant fossil relics of these animals to be found in our collections. The vertebræ are commonly detached, and deprived of their processes; the solid *centrum*, or body, alone remaining in most examples (as in *Lign.* 138, fig. 8.). Connected series, more or less complete, are occasionally discovered; and the entire column, in connexion with other parts of the skeleton, is preserved in many of the specimens in the British and other museums. Although, for the reasons previously stated, osteological details cannot be attempted in the present volumes, some acquaintance with the

* To obtain a correct knowledge of the osteological structure of fossil Reptiles, the student should consult Baron Cuvier's *Ossemens Fossiles*, Tom V., and Professor Owen's Reports to the Brit. Assoc. for 1839 and 1841. To the English reader, the translated abridgment of Cuvier's "Fossil Remains of the Animal Kingdom," by E. Pidgeon, Esq. 1 vol. 8vo, with plates, 1830, will be found a very instructive volume. See also Penny Cyclopædia, art. *Saurians*.