

elementary characters of the vertebræ of reptiles is necessary to guide the student, and even the amateur collector, in their researches. I have, therefore, selected a few specimens from Tilgate Forest in illustration of the elements of Saurian vertebræ, and will explain the terms by which the different processes or parts are distinguished; the general reader will thus be enabled to comprehend the descriptions of these structures in other works on Palæontology.

The bones composing the spine, are not only designed to form a flexible column of support to the trunk, but also to afford protection to the grand nervous chords constituting the spinal marrow, and which extend from the brain to the tail, and give off numerous lateral branches in their course; conferring sensation and motive power to every part of the frame. To effect this purpose, there is attached to the upper, or external face of each vertebra, a bony ring, called the *annular* part, or *neural-arch*, which is composed of two processes (*Lign.* 138, *b.*), arising from each side of the body, or *centrum* (*Lign.* 138, *a.*), and which unite above into a solid piece, termed the *spinal* process (*Lign.* 138, *d.*). On each side of the annular part there is a process, called the *transverse* (*Lign.* 138, *e, e.*), for the attachment of muscles; and, in some reptiles, as the Crocodiles, these processes are articulated to the ribs. The vertebræ of the tail have, in addition to the above apophyses, an inferior spinous process, termed the *chevron-*