

Professor Ansted shows that the anterior portions of the animal are not less in keeping with

gression would thus be in a corresponding degree slow. The size of the leg when clothed with flesh must have been large even in reference to the circumference of this bone, for it is much flattened and expanded outwards.

‘The character of strength indicated so clearly both by the proportion, the position, and the peculiar shape of the thigh-bone, is fully preserved in the other bones of the leg; for we find the two bones, the tibia and fibula, united together both at the top and bottom, forming an almost solid column, nearly as large as the femur, and set vertically beneath it. This is a contrivance only characterising the armadilloes among living animals, and in them it corresponds with an apparatus of the fore extremity, enabling the possessor to burrow beneath the surface of the earth. Its object is to offer a powerful resistance to the great pressure exerted when the hind extremities are employed as the purchase, while the fore-legs are being made use of for digging. In the megatherium it is likely that the similar contrivance was useful in very nearly the same way.

‘The base of the column we have just been considering was no less remarkable for massiveness and extent than was the vast and massive shaft itself. The bone of the instep is a cube of nearly nine inches a side; it rests on a heel-bone extending eighteen inches backwards, and the other bones are of similar proportions. The foot was terminated by three toes, one of which appears to have been armed with a tremendous claw. The claw, or rather its sheath, for of the actual claw itself we have no remains, measures upwards of ten inches in length and thirteen inches in circumference at the root; and in this respect, therefore, the analogy with the sloth is still preserved.

The tail of the Megatherium is a part in which the