

from which the broad muscles of the chest diverged towards the ribs, to draw and expand them in respiration. We would do well to remember this double office of the scapula and its muscles, that, whilst they are the very foundation of the bones of the upper extremity, and never wanting in any animal that has the most remote resemblance to an arm, it is the centre and point d'appui of the muscles of respiration, and acts, in that capacity, where there are no extremities at all!*

We perceive that it is only in certain classes of animals, that the scapula is joined to the trunk by bone, that is, through the medium of a clavicle; and a slight depression on a process of the scapula, when discovered in a fossil state, will therefore declare to the geologist the class to which the animal belonged. For example, there are brought over to this country the bones of the *Megatherium*, an animal which must have been larger than the elephant; of the anterior extremity there is only the scapula; and on the end of the process, called acromion, of that bone, there is a mark of the attachment of a clavicle. This points out the whole constitution of the extremity, and that it enjoyed perfect freedom of motion. Other circumstances will declare

* Some curious facts illustrative of this office of the muscles of the arm situated on the chest are stated in the author's paper on the VOICE, in the *Philosophical Transactions*. 1832.