

with the mummies of Men, and Apes, and Crocodiles, concludes them to be the remains of mammalia and reptiles, that have formed part of an ancient population on the banks of the Nile.

SECTION IV.

ICHTHYOSAURUS.

NEARLY at the head of the surprising discoveries, which have been made relating to the family of Saurians, we may rank the remains of many extraordinary species, which inhabited the sea; and which present almost incredible combinations of form, and structure; adapting them for modes of life, that do not occur among living reptiles. These remains are most abundant throughout the lias and oolite formations of the secondary series.* In these deposits we

* The chief repository in which these animals have been found is the lias, at Lyme Regis; but they abound also along the whole extent of this formation throughout England, e. g. from the coast of Dorset, through Somerset and Leicestershire, to the coast of Yorkshire: they are found also in the lias of Germany and France. The range of the genus *Ichthyosaurus* seems to have begun with the Muschelkalk, and to have extended through the whole of the oolitic period into the cretaceous formation. The most recent stratum in which any remains of this genus have yet been found is the chalk marl at Dover, where they have been discovered by Mr. Mantell: I have found them in the gault, near Benson, Oxon.