

more common are they in the lias of the Estuary of the Severn, where they are similarly disposed in strata of many miles in extent, and mixed so abundantly with teeth and rolled fragments of the bones of reptiles and fishes, as to show that this region, having been the bottom of an ancient sea, was for a long period the receptacle of the bones and fœcal remains of its inhabitants. The occurrence of Coprolites is not however peculiar to the places just mentioned, they are found in greater or less abundance throughout the lias of England; they occur also in strata, of all

Coprolites, especially the small ones, show no traces at all of contortion.

“The sections of these fœcal balls, (*see Pl. 15, Figs. 4, and 6,*) show their interior to be arranged in a folded plate, wrapped spirally round from the centre outwards, like the whorls of a turbinated shell; their exterior also retains the corrugations and minutè impressions, which, in their plastic state, they may have received from the intestines of the living animals. (*See Pl. 15, Figs. 3, and 10 to 14.*) Dispersed irregularly and abundantly throughout these petrified fœces, are the scales, and occasionally the teeth and bones of fishes, that seem to have passed undigested through the bodies of the Saurians; just as the enamel of teeth and sometimes fragments of bone, are found undigested both in the recent and fossil album græcum of hyænas. These scales are the hard bright scales of the *Dapedium politum*, and other fishes which abound in the lias, and which thus appear to have formed no small portion of the food of the Saurians. The bones are chiefly vertebræ of fishes and of small Ichthyosauri; the latter are less frequent than the bones of fishes, but still are sufficiently numerous, to show that these monsters of the ancient deep, like many of their successors in our modern oceans, may have devoured the small and weaker individuals of their own species.”