

that it may have occasionally visited the shore, the resemblance of its extremities to those of the Turtle may lead us to conjecture ; its motion however must have been very awkward on land ; its long neck must have impeded its progress through the water ; presenting a striking contrast to the organization which so admirably fits the Ichthyosaurus to cut through the waves. May it not therefore be concluded (since, in addition to these circumstances, its respiration must have required frequent access of air,) that it swam upon, or near the surface ; arching back its long neck like the swan, and occasionally darting it down at the fish which happened to float within its reach. It may perhaps have lurked in shoal water along the coast, concealed among the sea-weed, and raising its nostrils to a level with the surface from a considerable depth, may have found a secure retreat from the assaults of dangerous enemies ; while the length and flexibility of its neck may have compensated for the want of strength in its jaws, and its incapacity for swift motion through the water, by the suddenness and agility of the attack which they enabled it to make on every animal fitted for its prey, which came within its reach." —Geol. Trans. n. s. vol. i. part ii. p. 388.

We began our account of the Plesiosaurus with quoting the high authority of Cuvier, for considering it as one of the most anomalous and monstrous productions of the ancient systems of