

As the femur and tibia measure nearly three feet each, the entire hind leg must have attained a length of nearly two yards : a metatarsal bone, thirteen inches long, indicates a corresponding length in the foot.* The bones of the thigh and leg are not solid at the centre, as in Crocodiles, and other aquatic quadrupeds, but have large medullary cavities, like the bones of terrestrial animals. We learn from this circumstance, added to the character of the foot, that the Megalosaurus lived chiefly upon the land.

In the internal condition of these fossil bones, we see the same adaptation of the skeleton to its proper element, which now distinguishes the bones of terrestrial, from those of aquatic Saurians.† In the Ichthyosauri and Plesiosauri, whose paddles were calculated exclusively to move in water, even the largest bones of the arms and legs were solid throughout. Their weight would in no way have embarrassed their action in the fluid medium they inhabited ; but in the huge Megalosaurus, and still more gigantic Iguanodon, which are shown by the character of their feet to have been fitted to move on land, the larger bones of the legs were diminished

* See Geol. Trans. 2nd series, Vol. 3, p. 427, Pl. 41.

† I learn from Mr. Owen that the long bones of land Tortoises have a close cancellous internal structure, but not a medullary cavity.