

Mr. De la Beche has recently published a list of the specific gravities of living shells of different genera, from which he shews that their weight and strength are varied in accommodation to the habits and habitation of the animals by which they are respectively constructed; and points out evidence of design, such as we discover, in all carefully conducted investigations of the works of nature, whether among the existing or extinct forms of the animal creation.*

of the Ammonites and of many cognate genera of carnivorous Trachelipods, at the termination of the Secondary period, i. e. after the deposition of the Chalk formation.

* “ It can scarcely escape the observation of the reader, that, while the specific gravities of the *land* shells enumerated is generally greatest, the densities of the *floating marine* shells are much the smallest. The design of the difference is obvious: The land shells have to contend with all changes of climate, and to resist the action of the atmosphere, while, at the same time, they are thin for the purpose of easy transport, their density is therefore greatest. The Argonaut, Nautilus, and creatures of the like habits require as light shells as may be consistent with the requisite strength; the relative specific gravity of such shells is consequently small. The greatest observed density was that of a Helix, the smallest, that of an Argonaut. The shell of the Ianthina, a floating Molluscous creature, is among the smallest densities. The specific gravity of all the land shells examined was greater than that of Carara marble; in general more approaching to Arragonite. The freshwater and marine shells, with the exception of the Argonaut, Nautilus, Ianthina, Lithodomus, Haliotis, and great radiated crystalline Teredo from the East Indies, exceeded Carara marble in density. This marble and the Haliotis are of equal specific gravities.”—De la Beche’s Geological Researches, 1834, p. 76.