

These beautiful arrangements are, and ever have been, subservient to a common object, viz. the construction of *hydraulic instruments* of essential importance in the economy of creatures destined to move sometimes at the bottom, and at other times upon or near the surface of the sea. The delicate adjustments whereby the same principle is extended through so many grades and modifications of a single type, show the uniform and constant agency of some controlling Intelligence; and in searching for the origin of so much method and regularity amidst variety, the mind can only rest, when it has passed back, through the subordinate series of Second causes, to that great First Cause, which is found in the will and power of a common Creator.

SECTION VIII.

FORAMINATED POLYTHALAMOUS SHELLS.

Nummulites.

If the present were a fit occasion for such minute inquiries, the investigations of the various known species of Microscopic shells, would unfold a series of contrivances having relation to the economy of the minute Cephalopods by which they were constructed, not less striking than those we have been examining in the shells of extinct