withdrawn without subverting the whole. Silex is found in small quantities, both in plants and in animals; but does not, like hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, and azote, form a constituent element of organized beings.

(11) *Phosphorus*, under ordinary circumstances, is a pale amber-coloured substance, very like wax in appearance; but so exceedingly combustible, that it cannot be heated, much less melted, in the open air, without immediately taking fire: the product of the combustion is phosphoric acid. Under these circumstances, as may be supposed, phosphorus does not exist naturally, but is obtained by an elaborate process from various products into which it enters; as for example, from *bone earth*, or the earthy basis of the bones of animals; and from other saline compounds. It exists also in the mineral kingdom in certain districts, in considerable quantities; though upon the whole, it is not an abundant principle. Phosphorus affords another beautiful instance, in which the design has been directed to the properties of the compound, rather than to the element itself. The *phosphate of lime*, or bone earth, was apparently the thing wanted, to constitute the bony skeleton of animals; and accordingly, to the properties of this compound, the properties of the element seem to have been sacrificed. Neither lime itself in mass, nor any of its mineral compounds, appear