

rule, for we find lighter and heavier shells in the same matters ; for example, shells of cockles, of oysters, of echini, &c. are found in the same stones and earth ; and even in the royal cabinet may be seen a petrified cockle in a cornelian, and echini petrified in an agate, &c. therefore the specific weight of the shells has not influenced so much as Woodward supposes their position in the earth. The reason why such light shells are found more abundantly in chalk is, that chalk is only the ruined part of shells, and that those of the echini being lighter and thinner than others, would have been most easily reduced into powder or chalk, so that the strata of chalk are only met with in the places where formerly a great abundance of these light shells were collected, the destruction of which formed that chalk, in which we find those shells, which having resisted the frictions, are preserved entire, or at least in parts large enough to discover their species.

But this subject is treated more fully in our discourse on minerals ; we shall here content ourselves with saying, that a modification must be given to Woodward's expressions : he seems to say, that shells are found in flints, cornelians, in ores, and sulphur, as often, and in as great a  
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