

striae are sometimes very irregular. Among other organic remains afforded by these masses, was extricated the cast, in chalk, of a small nautilus, which had not been previously discovered in the upper chalk.

Such is the general hardness of this bed, that the workmen employed in blasting the cliff, and squaring the chalk for the purposes of the harbour, always leave untouched such masses of it as fall, except they belong to the lower part of the bed; which, containing fewer organic remains, is readily squared. The axe, when struck upon the chalk of the upper or middle part of this bed, returns a sound so exactly similar to that of striking upon flint, that the workman could only convince me that no flint was there, by clearing away what he had struck.

Throughout this bed of organic remains, numerous thin veins of a grey colour run, generally speaking, parallel with the stratum. These veins, however, are not straight, but undulate, terminating imperceptibly, being again renewed a little above or below. Some masses that had been split by the workmen along these veins, gave the opportunity of examining their nature, and it became very evident that they originated in the presence of some organized body. It was easy to detach from every part of the newly exposed surface, hard conical masses, striated from the summit to the base by lines of a dirty brown colour, which were glossy and moist: and where the continuity of the cone was accidentally interrupted by fracture on the side, the same appearance was discoverable within. It was evident that the nearly horizontal part of these grey veins connected together the neighbouring conical masses. Wherever a flint or a shell was imbedded in contact with one of these veins, it exhibited superficially the same striated appearance as the conical masses of chalk.

The flints interspersed through this bed of organic remains are generally of remarkable forms, and shew either internal or external evidence of their having been formed in or upon some organized body. They are not uncommonly of a nearly spherical shape; and when solid, there is uniformly, as far as my observation goes, a small indented circle upon each: when not solid, they always contained a nucleus having the appearance of a sponge of the same shape as the flint: these rarely exceed an inch in diameter. Others are cylindrical, and inclose another flint of the same form; others (and they are numerous) are conical, having a flat base, around which is always indented an oval, within which there is sometimes the indented mark of a sponge: some of these are solid, others are lined with tuberculated chalcedony of a bluish aspect; these are about two inches high: a thin lining of blue chalcedony, which is ex-