

gravity of which is 1.319. Its colour is dark brown without any lustre: it effervesces slightly with acids, contains no iron pyrites, and burns readily with a yellowish rather smoky and heavy flame. The smell is bituminous but not sulphureous. The Kimmeridge coal, however, rest upon, and is covered by, the slate-clay first described. (G. T. vol. i. p. 263.)

Several useless attempts have been made for coal, by sinking into the stratum, as at Sunning Well near Oxford; on the edge of Bagley wood near Farringdon in Berkshire: near Whiting's farm, between Shaftesbury and Hargrove in Dorsetshire they sunk by subscription upwards of 100 feet in search of coal through shale and clay. (G. Notes.)

It has sometimes been erroneously supposed that these beds were the same with the aluminous shale of Whitby in Yorkshire (G. Notes), which belong to the lias beds.

(bbb) *Mineral contents.* These beds furnish the selenites of Oxfordshire, which are daily formed by the action of decomposing pyrites upon the oyster shells and other fossils contained in them. (G. Notes.)

Alum was formerly manufactured in the parish of Kimmeridge. (Wilson's Mountains. G. Notes.)

(ccc) *Organic remains.\** The most interesting remains contained in this stratum are doubtless those of the extinct genera allied to the order Lacerta, but evidently calculated for a marine abode; the vertebræ, paddles, &c. of a species of *Ichthyosaurus* differing from those in the lias; the vertebræ, phalanges, and head of another Saurian animal, perhaps a variety of *Plesiosaurus*, have been found at Kimmeridge and Headington; bones, apparently of Cetacea, likewise occur.

The shells are given according to Smith and Sowerby.

#### CHAMBERED UNIVALVES.

*Nautilus.*

*Ammonites*, five species; Smith, fig. 7.

*Belemnites.*

and covered with a third, together with the bones of some animal. They are from two to three and a half inches in diameter, and a quarter of an inch thick, round, on one side flat and plain, on the other convex with mouldings. On the flat side are two, sometimes four, small round holes, perhaps the centre holes by which they were fixed to the turning-press: they are supposed to have been either amulets or money. In support of the latter opinion, it may be observed, that 'down with your coal', is in some counties a cant expression for pay your money. (G. Notes.) There has also been found in the neighbourhood a shallow bowl of Kimmeridge coal, six inches high and as many in diameter, containing coal-money. (Hutchings Hist. Dorset. G. Notes.)

\* The remainder of this article is by the Rev. W. D. Conybeare.