

which are now in the museum at Oxford. This fact proves the existence of the same condition of animated nature in this part of our island, as in the districts previously mentioned. Very recently a cave has been discovered near Plymouth, in which bones of hyenas were found in abundance, associated with those of the elephant, rhinoceros, horse, &c.

From what has been stated, we learn that our wastes and forests were once inhabited by extinct carnivora, belonging to genera whose recent species are almost entirely restricted to southern climates;—that these lived and died for successive generations, and were the prey or the destroyers of each other;—that the hyenas, according to their peculiar habits, dragged into their dens the creatures which they killed or found dead, and devoured them at their leisure;—that subsequently the races were annihilated, and were succeeded by animals of a character altogether different.

32. DISEASED BONES OF CARNIVORA FOUND IN CAVES.—Among the bones found in the caves of Germany are many in a condition which must have resulted from accident or disease. In some there has been a formation of new bony matter to repair fractures; in others there is ankylosis, or adhesion of the joints from inflammation: while in some the effects of caries, or decay of the bones, the result of tedious and painful diseases, are apparent. Others have a light and spongy character, and are very fragile, which must have arisen from a want of