

which the masses appear to have undergone, may have obliterated all evidence of animal or vegetable structures, should they ever have contained organic remains. By the aid of the microscope, we may yet perhaps solve the mystery of their origin, and the student may take up the investigation, with the certainty of obtaining much valuable information, even should the search for vestiges of organic structure prove abortive. It is not, however, impossible that the siliceous shells or cases of animalcules may have escaped destruction, and remain to reward the labours of some skilful and indefatigable observer. Mr. Reade detected in mica-schist, bodies which much resembled shields of infusoria (*Gaillonella*—see *Wond.* p. 771); but their animal origin is equivocal.

XIV. VOLCANIC ROCKS. (*Ly.* II. p. 185. *Wond.* p. 711.) The products of fire, or of subterraneous heat, ejected from beneath the surface through fissures in the earth's crust, whether in ancient or modern times.

*Subdivisions.*—1. *Trap, basalt, toadstone, tuff*; the erupted materials of ancient extinct volcanoes.

2. *Lava, scorice, pumice, ashes*; the products of recent and active sub-aerial volcanoes.

*Obs.* These igneous productions are of all ages; they traverse alike the hypogene rocks, the older