

mastic varnish will restore the colour, and by excluding the air, tend to preserve the specimens.

The teeth have generally undergone the same changes as the bones with which they are associated. The elephants' and mammoths' teeth that are imbedded in loose calcareous earth, like the loam and chalk rubble of Brighton cliffs, and of Walton in Essex, are often very friable, and apt to split into pieces in the direction of the vertical plates of dentine, and bone: the pieces should be glued together, and when set, the tooth be thoroughly saturated with thin glue, used very hot, and the superfluous glue removed, with a sponge wrung out as dry as possible from boiling water. If there be any portion of the jaw attached to the teeth, it must be carefully preserved; and search should be made for fragments of the articulations, or parts of the joints or sockets.

In argillaceous strata, as the Lias Shale, London Clay, &c., fossils are often found saturated with a yellowish, brilliant mineral, called pyrites, or sulphuret of iron, which decomposes upon exposure to the atmosphere, and occasions the destruction of the specimens. The fossils of the Isle of Sheppey are peculiarly obnoxious to this change. The remains of vertebrated animals in the Lias, very generally occur as skeletons more or less perfect, the entire configuration of the original being preserved in many instances. (*Bd.* pl. 7. *Wond.* p. 487.) But the deposit in which they are often found, is a laminated shale, that flakes off with great facility; much