http://geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1844-Mantell-MedalsCreation/README.htm

and of the Paris basin. The shell-marls, still in progress of formation in the lakes of Scotland, in like manner are imbedding the recent species (*Ly.* I. p. 68.); and the travertines precipitated by thermal springs, effect a similar operation.

CHARA. — This common, but very interesting plant, is well known as the inhabitant of every lake, stream, and rivulet in the kingdom. The stems are hollow, and composed of tubes filled with a fluid in which green globules circulate; they form beautiful objects for exhibiting the circulation in vegetable structures. Their fruit consists of minute nuclei, with an external calcareous covering, composed of five spirally twisted plates, which unite at the summit (*Lign.* 45, figs. 1, 2.). These seed-vessels, when first discovered in a fossil state, were supposed to be shells of some unknown mollusca, and a genus was formed for their reception with the name of *Gyrogonites* (*twisted-stones*); a circumstance necessary for the student to bear in mind, as the term is still often employed by geological writers, although the true nature of these bodies is well-known. In Plate III. fig. 5, a branch of the common Chara is represented, with seeds: and figures of the seed-vessels of two fossil species are subjoined (*Lign.* 45, figs. 1, 2.).

NYMPHEA.—Those magnificent aquatic plants, the water-lilies, which adorn our rivers and lakes, with