

examining the surrounding matrix before extricating a fossil from its bed.

The Belemnites of the oolitic limestones, frequently contain the phragmocone, either transmuted into calcareous spar, or retaining its original shelly structure. In the clays the horny sheath or receptacle is sometimes found pressed flat, and extending above the alveolus of the osselet, and has often a thin coat of nacre of a pearly lustre; but it is more commonly detached, and the *ink-bag*, and its inspissated contents, the sepia, enclosed within. The ink-bag and its tube or duct, but little compressed, are occasionally met with, having a brilliant nacreous pellicle, the remains of the sheath, attached to the surface. The ink-bag is occasionally of considerable magnitude; specimens have been found at Lyme Regis, nearly a foot in length.* The circumstance of the ink-bags being generally full of sepia, admits of the inference (as Dr. Buckland with his wonted acumen remarks), that they died suddenly; for their living analogues eject the inky fluid, upon the least approach of danger. The perfect condition of the bag, proves also their instant enclosure in the deposit, for the distended membrane would otherwise have burst from decomposition, and the contents have escaped. The fossil-marine reptiles, the Ichthyosauri, &c., with which

* See Bd. Vol. I. p. 372—379.