

is admirably exemplified in the works to which reference has been made; and even but a slight acquaintance with its principles, will often enable us to obtain some general information as to the nature and relations of fossil Chelonians.

The student will remember that all the Chelonians are edentulous, *i. e.* toothless; their bony jaws being covered by horny sheaths, as in birds; these mandibles are therefore the only dental organs that can occur in a fossil state.

FOSSIL TURTLES AND TORTOISES.—The earliest indications of the presence of Reptiles on our planet, are afforded by the foot-prints of Tortoises, apparently of terrestrial species, on the surfaces of the layers of sandstone of the New Red formation, in Dumfriesshire in Scotland, at Storeton, near Liverpool, and in several places in Germany (see *Bd.* I. p. 259.). But no osseous remains of Chelonia have hitherto been found in strata antecedent to the Oolite. The Solenhofen quarries have yielded the bones and carapaces of several species of marine Turtles, and remains of this family have been found at Stonesfield, and in the Bath and Portland Oolite. In the Jura limestone at Soleure, two large species of Emydians (fresh-water tortoises) have been discovered. The Wealden formation abounds in Chelonian remains of both fluviatile and marine genera. From the Isle of Purbeck some fine examples of marine and fluviatile forms have been obtained; my own researches in the strata of Tilgate Forest (*Foss.*