

some quadrupeds, as the horse for example, the metatarsus consists of but one piece, the tarsus is composed of several bones.

The toes of birds present deviations equally recognisable; for the number of the articulations (or pieces of bone) in each toe is different. Thus the thumb, or short-toe, has *two* bones; the first toe on the inner side *three*; the middle toe *four*; and the outer toe *five*. In general, three toes are directed forwards, and one backwards. In some species, the thumb or opposable toe is altogether wanting; in others, as in the swallow, it is directed forwards; in climbing birds, both the outer and back toe are situated behind. The position of the hind toe, therefore, affords an important indication of the habits of the bird (see *Wond.* p. 135, Tab. 22.), and from a fragment of the lower extremity of the shank, or tarso-metatarsal bone, with any trace of this articulation, we may determine whether the individual to which it belonged was a climber, wader, &c. In the toes of Crocodiles alone, the number of joints is the same as in birds; but in these reptiles, each toe is supported by a distinct metatarsal bone. The osteological peculiarities above enumerated, may assist the collector in arriving at some general inferences as to the nature of any fossil remains of birds.

II. ORNITHOLITES OF TERTIARY DEPOSITS.
Wond. p. 238.—The fossil remains of birds consist