

larly in limestones, were formed ; but the probability is, that they have been excavated at various times, and by different causes. It is not, however, so much our object to speak of the caves themselves, as of the bones which are so frequently found in them, though it must at the same time be acknowledged that the bones were in all probability deposited at different periods, and in many instances were accumulating for a long space of time.

The existence of bones in caverns has been long known, and has always attracted a considerable degree of curiosity. The limestone caves of Germany, and Hungary in particular, have been celebrated for the quantity of bones and teeth of carnivorous animals they contain. The bones which are most numerous are those of the bear and the hyæna, the former being a species as large as a horse, and the hyæna often one third larger than any recent species. There are, however, mingled with these the bones of tigers, wolves, foxes, and other animals, none of which are petrified or rounded by rolling.

Some of the early accounts given of these caves and their contents are very singular. Dr. Ebrœus describes one situated in the Lower Hartz, in the county of Holinstein, called by the country people Dwarf's Hole. "Here," he says, "are found the skulls, jaw-bones, shoulder-blades, back-bones, ribs, teeth, thigh-bones, and all other bones of men and beasts ; and there are some like an unshapen mass or lump of stone, having no resemblance to any bone at all." Such is the indefinite and absurd character of the accounts given by early writers of the bones found in limestone caves. Professor Buckland commenced the philosophical investigation of the organic remains of bone caverns by the examination of that of Kirkdale in Yorkshire. Since the publication of his large work, "*Reliquæ Diluvianæ*," the subject has acquired a new interest ; many geologists have been actively engaged in the investigation, and, although the information that has been acquired cannot be considered satisfactory, it may be hoped that the time is not very distant when the efforts that have been made will be attended with entire success.

Kirkdale cave is situated between Helmsley and Kirby Moorside, about twenty-five miles from York. It was discovered in the summer of 1821, while cutting a quarry,