

behind ; but in both the brute and human eye we find a third part added : there is a lens in the middle, a darkened chamber behind, and a lighted chamber, or rather vestibule, in front. Now this lighted vestibule—the cornea—is wanting in the eye of the cuttle-fish. The lens is placed in front, and the darkened chamber behind ; the construction of the organ is that of a common camera-obscura, without aught additional. I found something worthy of remark, too, in the peculiar style in which the chamber is darkened. In the higher animals it may be described as a chamber hung with black velvet ; the *pigmentum nigrum* which covers it is of deepest black : but in the cuttle-fish it is a chamber hung with velvet, not of black, but of a dark purple hue ; the *pigmentum nigrum* is of a purplish-red colour. There is something curious in marking this, as it were first, departure from an invariable condition of eyes of the more perfect structure, and in them tracing the peculiarity downwards through almost every shade of colour, to the emerald-like eye-specks of the pecten, and the still more rudimental *red* eye-specks of the star-fish. After examining the eyes, I next laid open, in all its length, from the neck to the point of the sack, the dorsal bone of the creature,—its internal shell I should rather say, for bone it has none. The form of the shell in this species is that of a feather equally developed in the web on both sides. It gives rigidity to the body, and furnishes the muscles with a fulcrum ; and we find it composed, like all other shells, of a mixture of animal matter and carbonate of lime. In some of the genera it is much more complicated and rigid than in that to which the *strolach* belongs, consisting, instead of one, of numerous plates, and in form somewhat resembling a flat shallop with its cargo rising over the gunwale, or one of the valves of a pearl mussel occupied by the animal. Is my description of this curious creature too lengthy ? The young geologist who sets himself to study the fossils of the Oolitic and Cre-