

taceous systems would be all the better for knowing a great deal more regarding it than I have told him here. He will discover that at least one-half the molluscous remains of these deposits, their belemnites, ammonites, nautili, nummulites, baculites, hamites, lituites, turrilites, and scaphites, belonged to the great natural class—singularly rich in its extinct orders and genera, though comparatively poor in its existing ones—which we find represented by the cuttle-fish.

CONGENERS OF THE CUTTLE-FISH, BELEMNITES, ETC.

AMONG its many extinct congeners, the order of the Belemnites was one of not the least curious. It has been remarked, that in the cuttle-fish, as we now find it, a greater number of distinct portions of the organization of creatures belonging to widely-separated divisions of the animal kingdom are to be seen united than in any other animal. Cut off its head immediately below the arms, and we have in the dissevered portion, with its ring of nerve, its central mouth, and its suckers, the true analogue of a star-fish. The radiated zoophyte lies before us. Some of its genera have their plated and jointed antennæ placed above and below the eyes. The creature, so far as these organs give it a character, is no longer a zoophyte, but an insect or crustacean. But then *there* is the soft sac, with its fin-like appendages, the internal shell, and the yellow transparent blood. These are unequivocal characteristics of the mollusc. Yes; but then *there* is a horny beak, and there a muscular gizzard. It must have laid the *bird* under contribution for these. *There* is, besides, a true tongue, and an organ for hearing; and, though one of the chambers be wanting, a singularly large and efficient eye. These organs are all borrowed from the vertebrata. And—as if to secure its claim to originality, not only in its combinations, but in its