

the College of Surgeons, of fossil animals of singular structure, between the crocodile and the fish. They are in a calcareous rock, and the skeletons are entire, but crushed, and a good deal disfigured. Here are the extremities or paddles, consisting of a multitude of bones articulated; and among these we still discover the humerus, radius and ulna, and bones of the carpus and fingers. No fault is to be found with the construction of these instruments; they are suited to their offices, and no bone is superfluous, or misplaced, or imperfect. The ichthyosaurus and plesiosaurus (the animals which offer these specimens) inhabited the sea; their remains are found low in the lias deposit; great changes have been wrought on the land and on the deep since they existed; and the race of animals, the structure of whose extremities we have been engaged in examining, was not then in being. When we discover the same series of bones in the animals of the old world as there is in those now alive, we admit the existence of the same system; and we must necessarily acknowledge the progressive developement of that system, through a period of time incalculably remote; even if, instead of our days and years, referable to history, each day were as a thou-

dred bones of the paddle or of the fin; where there is an increase of the number, whilst, relatively speaking, there is a defect in the form and motion, of the parts.