

rian Museum gave me permission to take such drawings of the preparations it contains, as I might want for the illustration of this work ; and to Mr. Clift, the conservator, and Mr. Owen, the assistant conservator of the museum, for their obliging assistance on this occasion. Mere verbal description can never convey distinct ideas of the form and structure of parts, unless aided by figures; and these I have accordingly introduced very extensively in the course of the work.*

Being compelled, from the nature of my subject, and in order to avoid tedious and fatiguing circumlocution, to employ many terms of science, I have been careful to explain the meaning of each when first introduced : but as it might frequently happen that, on a subsequent occurrence, their signification may have been forgotten, the reader will generally find in the index, which I have, with this view, made very copious, a reference to the passage where the term is explained.

I beg, in this place, to express my deep sense of the obligation conferred on me by Mr. Davies Gilbert, the late president of the Royal Society, to whose kindness I owe my being appointed to write this treatise.

* All the wood engravings have been executed by Mr. Byfield, and the drawings for them were, for the most part, made by Miss Catlow, whose assistance on this occasion has been most valuable to me.