

CHAP. V.

*Of the External Descriptions of Fossils.*

§. 258.

**A**N External Description of a fossil is nothing more than the expression by words of the External Conception which we have of a fossil.

If the External Conception be *complete*, and *intelligibly* expressed in the *proper order*, the Description will be *perfect*.

Hence, the *perfection* of the External Descriptions depends on the observance of the following three general rules.

FIRST GENERAL RULE.

§. 259.

*Every External Description of a fossil\* should include all the External Characters discoverable in it; and these accurately defined.*

To follow this rule it is necessary to know how many External Characters can be discovered in a fossil;

\* In speaking generally of a fossil we always understand a species.