

front teeth are of enormous size, as compared with the molar, and they lock together in such manner as to render a grinding movement impossible; a new adjustment has, therefore, been supplied,—the lower jaw is so adapted as to work in the skull neither in a transverse nor in a rotatory direction, but lengthwise, like the action of a carpenter using his plane, the teeth moving backwards and forwards, as may be observed in the rabbit while eating its food. The enamel of the molar teeth (see Tab. 21, fig. 1) is placed vertically and transverse to the jaw, so as to form an admirable grinding surface. But this is not the only variation of structure observable in the teeth of these animals. The incisors being implements of constant use, are renewed by continual growth, and there is a special provision for their support in a bent socket. The enamel is unequally distributed round the tooth, being very thin behind and thick in front, by which means the cutting edges are always preserved; for by the very act of gnawing, the hinder part of the incisor wears away quicker than the fore part, and thus a sharp inclined edge, like that of an adze or chisel, is maintained, and which is the very form required in the economy of the animal. The skull of the common rabbit or hare will exemplify these remarks.

15. GENERAL INFERENCES.—These are but a few examples of those admirable adaptations of means to ends which are observable throughout