

bining in their structure certain characters of reptiles, have been found in the chalk and green sand of Sussex and Kent. They consist of large, conical, striated teeth, bearing a resemblance to those of crocodiles, with which they were formerly confounded. I have several from the white chalk near Lewes; Mr. Bensted has discovered others in the Kentish rag, and Mr. Rose, in the gault of Cambridge.

27. FOSSIL SALMON, OR SMELT.—But the most remarkable ichthyolites of the chalk, are the fishes belonging to the salmon family (*salmonidæ*), and closely related to the smelt (*osmerus*). Many years since, I succeeded in extricating from the chalk the extraordinary specimen before you.\*

The length of the fish is nine inches, and it stands nearly six inches in relief; the back is still attached to the chalk, and the dorsal fin is exposed. There are other examples of the same species in my cabinet, which are almost equally perfect. These ichthyolites were obtained from the quarries in the immediate vicinity of Lewes, during my residence in that town. It is clear that the chalk must have surrounded the fishes while they were alive and in actual progression, and by suddenly consolidating, preserved their forms unaltered; for the body is round and uncompressed, the mouth open, and the

\* A beautiful lithograph of this fossil, by Mr. Pollard, forms the frontispiece of the Catalogue of the Mantellian Museum.