

of the original animal. The teeth of the crocodile are very numerous; they are of a conical form (Plate III. fig. 10), and consist of a succession of cones, like a series of thimbles, of various sizes, fitted into each other; they are striated externally, and have a prominent lateral ridge; as the outer tooth wears away, a new one is ready to supply its place; the teeth of the old crocodile are therefore as fresh as those of the young animal but just escaped from its shell. The interior of the teeth is never completely filled up; hence, at whatever age a tooth may be removed, there is found, either in the socket, or in the cavity of the tooth itself, a new germ, in a greater or less state of advancement, ready to occupy the place of the old one, when the latter shall be removed; and this succession is often repeated. In the fossil before us (Tab. 80), the internal structure is well displayed, in consequence of the removal of a portion of the external surface of the old tooth. Detached bones of several species of crocodiles are scattered through the Tilgate strata. From the difference observable in the form of the teeth, they appear referable to two kinds—the one belonging to that division of crocodiles, with long slender muzzles, named *gavial*; the other to a species of crocodile, properly so called,* and resembling a fossil species found at Caen. Among the hundreds of teeth and bones of crocodiles collected in the wealden, no portions of the

* Geology of the South-East of Engl and, p. 26.