

Crocodiles in its dermal structure. But Professor Owen remarks, that this modification of the dermal system does not affect the claims of the Labyrinthodonts to be considered as Batrachians, although all the known living species of this order are covered with a soft, lubricous, naked integument; for the skin is the seat of the most variable characters in all animals; and the double occipital condyle, the simple lower jaw, the palatal vomerine bones, and the teeth of the fossil reptiles, must be deemed decisive of their essentially Batrachian nature.

From the structure of the cranium the important fact is established, that the Labyrinthodonts had subterminal nostrils leading to a wide and shallow nasal cavity, separated by a broad and almost continuous palatal flooring from the cavity of the mouth; indicating, by its horizontal position, that the posterior apertures were placed far behind the external nostrils; whereas in the recent air-breathing Batrachians the nasal canal is short and vertical, and the inner apertures pierce the anterior part of the palate. Hence the Labyrinthodonts must have breathed air like the Crocodiles, and were probably provided with well-developed ribs, and not mere rudimentary styles, as in most living Batrachians.

**TOOTH OF THE LABYRINTHODON.** Pl. VI. fig. 3. —The tooth of the Labyrinthodon is of a conical figure, very slightly recurved, and marked externally with shallow, fine, longitudinal striæ. Pl. VI. fig. 3<sup>a</sup>. represents ( $\frac{1}{2}$  *nat.*) a specimen presented to me by