

examined by Prof. Owen, who finds that the jaw contained on the whole twelve molar teeth, with the socket of a small canine, and three small incisors, which are *in situ*, altogether amounting to sixteen teeth on each side of the lower jaw.



The only question which could be raised respecting the nature of these fossils was, whether they belonged to a mammifer, a reptile, or a fish. Now on this head the osteologist observes that each of the seven half jaws is composed of but one single piece, and not of two or more separate bones, as in fishes and most reptiles, or of two bones, united by a suture, as in some few species belonging to those classes. The condyle, moreover (*b*, fig. 375), or articular surface, by which the lower jaw unites with the upper, is convex in the Stonesfield specimens, and not concave as in fishes and reptiles. The coronoid process (*a*, fig. 375) is well developed, whereas it is wanting, or very small, in the inferior classes of vertebrata. Lastly, the molar teeth in the *Amphitherium* and *Phascolotherium* have complicated crowns, and two roots (see *d*, fig. 375), instead of being simple and with single fangs.\*

The only question, therefore, which could fairly admit of controversy was limited to this point, whether the fossil mammalia found in the lower oolite of Oxfordshire ought to be referred to the marsupial quadrupeds, or to the ordinary placental series. Cuvier had long ago pointed out a peculiarity in the form of the angular process (*c*, figs. 380 and 381) of the lower jaw, as a character of the genus *Didelphys*; and Prof.

Fig. 377.



Fig. 378.



Fig. 379.

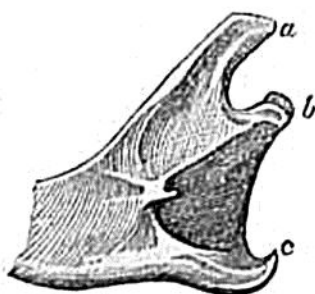


Fig. 380.



Fig. 381.



Part of lower jaw of *Tupaia Tana*;  
twice natural size.

Fig. 259. End view seen from behind, showing  
the very slight inflection of the angle at *c*.  
Fig. 290. Side view of same.

Part of lower jaw of *Didelphys Azara*;  
recent, Brazil. Natural size.

Fig. 291. End view seen from behind, showing  
the inflection of the angle of the jaw, *c*, *d*.  
Fig. 292. Side view of same.

\* I have given a figure in the Principles of Geology, chap. ix., of another Stonesfield specimen of *Amphitherium Prevostii*, in which the sockets and roots of the teeth are finely exposed.