

the effect of elucidating a very curious part of natural history. The mastodon is the name of an extinct animal, which must have been nearly of the same size as the elephant. It has received that name from the early familiarity of Naturalists with the teeth; which have upon their surfaces of contact mammillary-shaped projections: and it was supposed, at one time, that they might have belonged to a carnivorous animal. But on a portion of the upper jaw being found with the teeth, it admitted of this course of reasoning. 1. In the upper maxillary bone of all vertebrated animals, there is a hole which transmits a branch of the fifth pair of nerves (see p. 149). This nerve goes to the upper lip. But when, as in the elephant, there is the addition of a great proboscis, since that organ possesses sensibility through this nerve, the nerve will be proportionably large, and the hole, consequently, through which it is transmitted. Hence it follows that when we possess a portion of the bones of the face, with the attached tooth of the mastodon, we can infer, by the greater size of this hole or foramen, that the nerve supplied more than the lips—that the animal had a proboscis, and was a species of elephant.

It has been more lately discovered by our conservator in the College of Surgeons, Mr. Clift, that judging by the teeth, and including in the