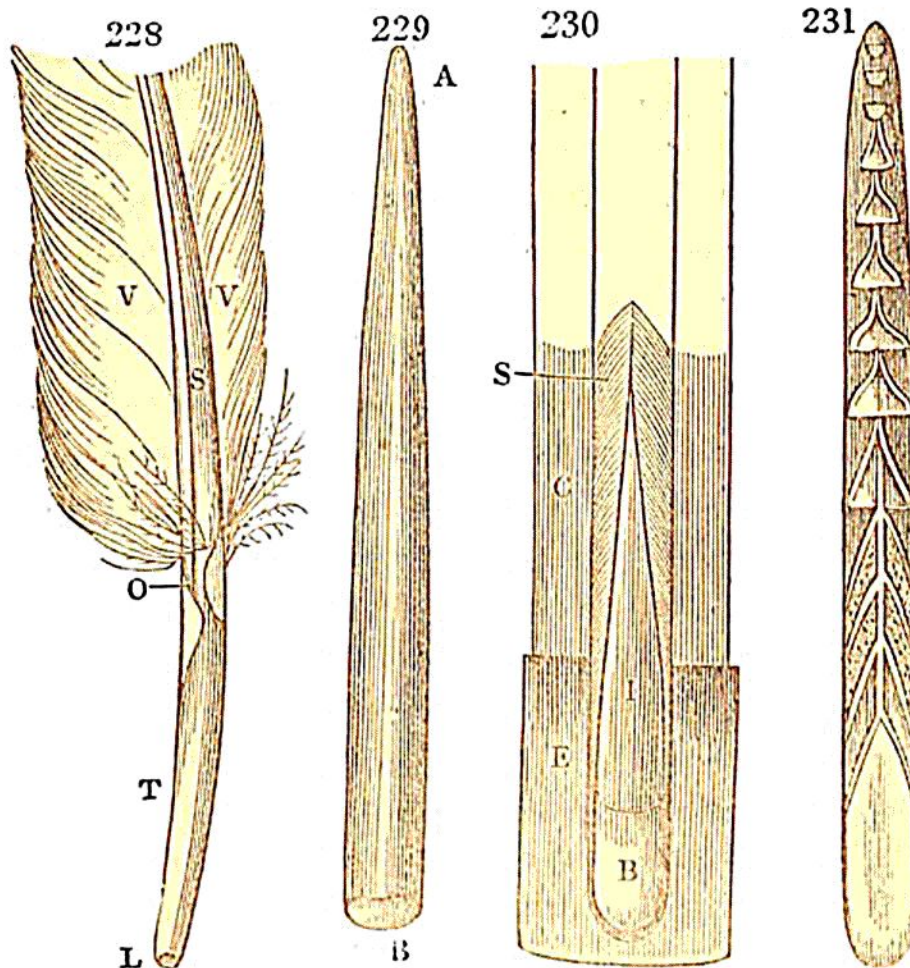


complication at least, although on a microscopic scale, an extensive manufactory. Hence will be readily understood how great must be the difficulty of tracing all the steps of these multifarious processes, which are carried on in so small a space: and this difficulty is much increased from the circumstance that the organ in which they take place is itself only developed as the work proceeds, its different parts being produced successively in proportion as they are wanted, and their form and structure undergoing frequent variation in the course of their development.



The most elaborate and apparently accurate researches on this intricate subject, are those lately undertaken by M. Frederick Cuvier, from whose memoirs* I have selected the following abridged statement of the principal results of his observations. It will be necessary, in order to obtain a

* *Mémoires du Muséum*, xiii. 327; and *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, ix. 113.