

is folded into a tubular shape for that purpose. But suction among the mammalia is generally performed by the muscles of the lips and cheeks, aided by the movements of the tongue, which, when withdrawn to the back of the cavity, acts like the piston of a pump. In the lamprey, this hydraulic action of the tongue is particularly remarkable. Many quadrupeds, however, drink by repeatedly dipping their tongue into the fluid, and quickly drawing it into the mouth.

§ 2. *Prehension of Solid Food.*

WHEN the food consists of solid substances, organs must be provided; first, for their prehension and introduction into the mouth; secondly, for their detention when so introduced; and thirdly, for their mechanical division into smaller fragments.

Of those instruments of prehension which are not portions of the mouth itself, and which form a series of variously constructed organs extending from the tentacula of the polypus to the proboscis of the elephant, and to the human arm and hand, some account has already been given in the history of the mechanical functions; but, in a great number of instances, prehension is performed by the mouth, or the parts which are extended from it, and may be considered as its appendices. The prehensile power of the mouth is derived principally from the mechanical form and action of the jaws, which open to receive, and close to detain the bodies intended as food; and to this latter purpose, the teeth, when the mouth is furnished with them, likewise materially contribute, although their primary and more usual office is the mechanical division of the food, by means of mastication, an action in which the jaws, in their turn, co-operate. Another principal purpose effected by the jaws is that of giving mechanical power to the muscles, which, by acting upon the sides of the cavity of the mouth, tend to compress and