

which is cloven, is turned backwards, extending into the throat and acting like a valve in closing the air passage into the lungs. If, when this animal has approached within a certain distance of the insect it is about to seize, we watch it with attention, we are surprised to observe the insect suddenly disappear, without our being able to perceive what has become of it. This arises from the frog having darted out its tongue upon its victim with such extreme quickness, and withdrawn it with the insect adhering to it, so rapidly, that it is scarcely possible for the eye to follow it in its motion. The *Chameleon* also has a very long and slender tongue, the extremity of which is dilated into a kind of club or spoon, and covered with a glutinous matter: with this instrument the animal catches insects from a considerable distance, by a similar manœuvre to that practised by the frog.*

As Serpents swallow their prey entire, so the bones of their jaws and face are formed to admit of great expansion, and freedom of motion upon one another. Serpents and Lizards have generally curved or conical teeth, calculated rather for tearing and holding the food, than for masticating it: like those of fishes, they are affixed partly to the jaws, and partly to the palate. The Chelonian reptiles have no teeth, their office being supplied by the sharp cutting edges of the horny portion of the jaws.

Birds as well as serpents have a moveable upper jaw; but they are also provided with beaks of various forms, in which we may trace an exact adaptation to the kind of food appropriated to each tribe; thus, predaceous birds, as the eagle and the hawk tribe, have an exceedingly strong hooked beak, for tearing and dividing the flesh of the animals on which they prey; while those that feed on insects, or on grain, have pointed bills, adapted to picking up minute objects. Aquatic birds have generally flattened bills, by which they

* Mr. Houston has given a description of the structure of this organ, and of the muscles by which it is moved, in a paper contained in the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. xv. p. 177.