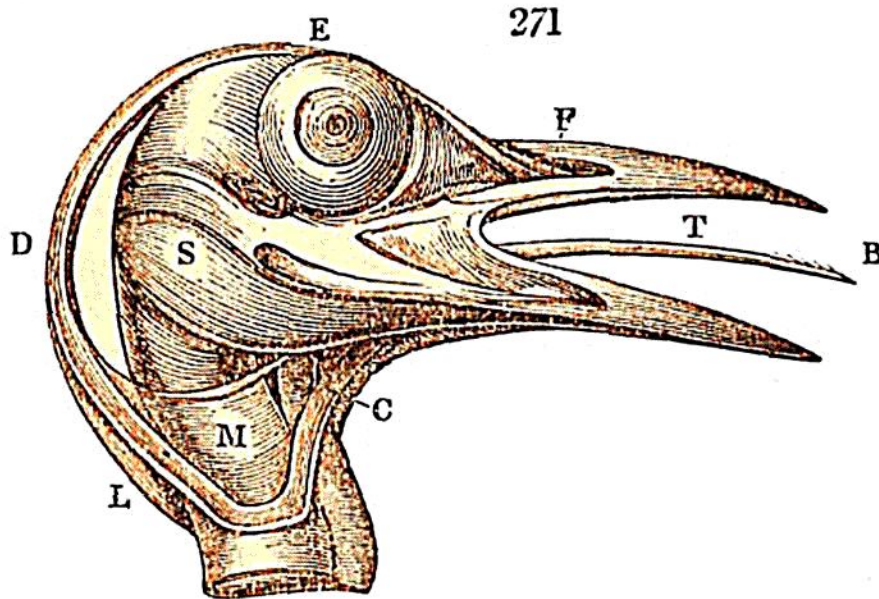


pointed tongue, and transfix the insects on which it principally feeds; and these motions are performed so quickly that the eye can scarcely follow them. This remarkable mechanism is delineated in Fig. 271, which represents the head of the woodpecker, with the skin removed and the parts dissected. The tongue itself (τ) is a slender sharp-pointed horny cylinder, having its extremity (β) beset with barbs, of which the points are directed backwards: it is supported on a slender *Os Hyoides*, or lingual bone, to the posterior end of which the extremities of two very long and narrow cartilaginous processes are articulated.* The one on the right side is shown in the figure, nearly in the whole



extent of its course, at c , d , e , f , and a small portion of the left cartilage is seen at l . The two cartilages form, at their junction with the tongue, a very acute angle, slightly diverging as they proceed backwards; until, bending downwards (at c ,) they pass obliquely round the sides of the neck, connected by a membrane (m ;) then, being again inflected upwards, they converge towards the back of the head, where they meet, and, being enclosed in a common sheath, are conducted together along a groove, which extends forwards, along the middle line of the cranium (e ,) till it arrives between the eyes. From this point, the groove,

* These cartilages correspond in situation, at the part, at least, where they are joined to the *os hyoides*, to what are called the *cornua*, or horns of that bone, in other animals.