

and the two cartilages it contains, which are now more closely conjoined, are deflected towards the right side, and terminate at the edge of the aperture of the right nostril (F,) into which the united cartilages are finally inserted. In order that their course may be seen more distinctly, these cartilages are represented in the figure (at D,) drawn out of the groove provided to receive and protect them.* A long and slender muscle is attached to the inner margin of each of these cartilages, and their actions conspire to raise the lower and most bent parts of the cartilages, so that their curvature is diminished, and the tongue protruded to a considerable distance, for the purpose of catching insects. As soon as this has been accomplished, these muscles being suddenly relaxed, another set of fibres, passing in front of the anterior portion of the cartilages nearly parallel to them, are thrown into action, and as suddenly retract the tongue into the mouth, with the insect adhering to its barbed extremity. This muscular effort is, however, very materially assisted by the long and tortuous course of these arched cartilages, which are nearly as elastic as steel springs, and effect a considerable saving of muscular power.† This was the more necessary, because, while the bird is on the tree, it repeats these motions almost incessantly, boring holes in the bark, and picking up the minutest insects, with the utmost celerity and precision. On meeting with an ant-hill, the woodpecker easily lays it open by the combined efforts of its feet and bill, and soon makes a plentiful meal of the ants and their eggs.

Among the Mammalia which have no teeth, the *Myrmecophaga*, or Ant-eater, practises a remarkable manœuvre for catching its prey. The tongue of this animal is very long and slender, and has a great resemblance to an earth-worm: that of the two-toed ant-eater is very nearly one-third of the length of the whole body; and at its base is

* S is the large salivary gland on the right side.

† An account of this mechanism is given by Mr. Waller, in the Phil. Trans. for 1716, p. 509.