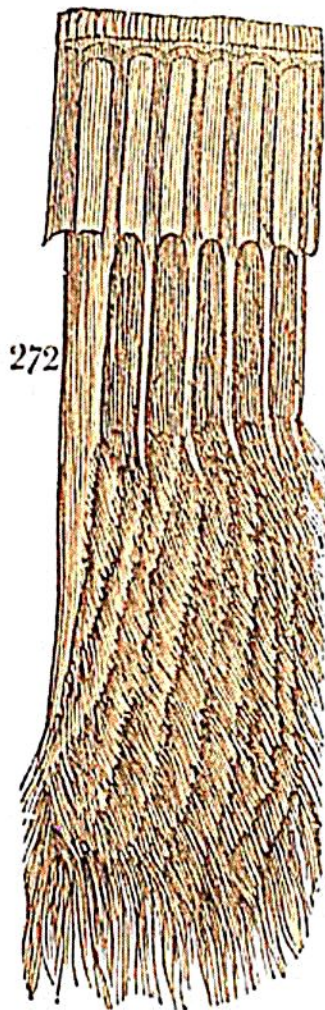


birds; being furnished, like the former, with grinding teeth at the posterior part of both the upper and lower jaws, but they are of a horny substance; and the mouth is terminated in front by a horny bill, greatly resembling that of the duck, or the spoon-bill.

The *Whale* is furnished with a singular apparatus designed for filtration on a large scale. The palate has the form of a concave dome, and from its sides there descends perpendicularly into the mouth, a multitude of thin plates set parallel to each other, with one of their edges directed towards the circumference, and the other towards the middle



of the palate. These plates are known by the name of *whalebone*, and their general form and appearance, as they hang from the roof of the palate, are shown in Fig. 272, which represents only six of these plates.* They are connected with the bone by means of a white ligamentous substance, to which they are immediately attached, and from which they appear to grow: at their inner margins, the fibres, of which their texture is throughout composed, cease to adhere together; but being loose and detached, form a kind of fringe, calculated to intercept, as in a sieve, all solid or even gelatinous substances that may have been admitted into the cavity of the mouth, which is exceedingly capacious; for as the plates of whalebone grow only from the margins of the upper jaw, they leave a large space with-

in, which, though narrow anteriorly, is wider as it extends backwards, and is capable of holding a large quantity of

* In the *Piked Whale* the plates of whalebone are placed very near together, not being a quarter of an inch asunder; and there are above three hundred plates in the outer rows on each side of the mouth.