

striking evidences of the provident care with which every part of the organization of animals has been constructed, in exact reference to their respective wants and destinations.

The purposes answered by the teeth are principally those of seizing and detaining whatever is introduced into the mouth, of cutting it asunder, and dividing it into smaller pieces, of loosening its fibrous structure, and of breaking down and grinding its harder portions. Occasionally, some particular teeth are much enlarged, in order to serve as weapons of attack or of defence; for which purpose, they extend beyond the mouth, and are then generally denominated *tusks*; this we see exemplified in the *Elephant*, the *Narwhal*, the *Walrus*, the *Hippopotamus*, the *Bour*, and the *Babiroussa*.

Four principal forms have been given to teeth, which accordingly may be distinguished into the conical, the sharp-edged, the flat, and the tuberculated teeth; though we occasionally find a few intermediate modifications of these forms. It is easy to infer the particular functions of each class of teeth, from the obvious mechanical actions to which, by their form, they are especially adapted. The conical teeth, which are generally also sharp-pointed, are principally employed in seizing, piercing, and holding objects: such are the offices which they perform in the *Crocodile*, and other Saurian reptiles, where all the teeth are of this structure; and such are also their uses in most of the Cetacea, where similar forms and arrangements of teeth prevail. All the Dolphin tribe, such as the *Porpus*, the *Grampus*, and the *Dolphin*, are furnished with a uniform row of conical teeth, set round both jaws, in number amounting frequently to two hundred. Fig. 273, which represents the jaws of the *Porpus*, shows the form of these simply prehensile teeth.

The *Cachalot* has a similar row of teeth, which are, however, confined to the lower jaw. All these animals subsist upon fish, and their teeth are therefore constructed very much on the model of those of fish; while those Cetacea, on the other hand, which are herbivorous, as the *Manatus* and