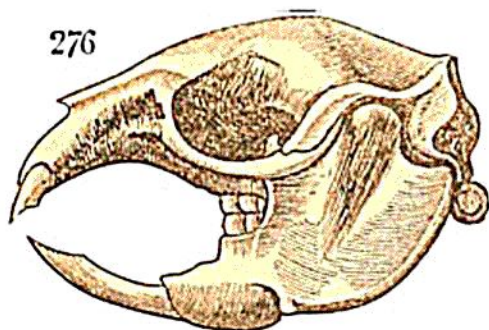


of Mammalia. These animals are formed for subsisting on dry and tough materials, from which but little nutriment can be extracted; such as the bark, and roots, and even the woody fibres of trees, and the harder animal textures, which would appear to be most difficult of digestion. They are all animals of diminutive size, whose teeth are expressly



formed for gnawing, nibbling, and wearing away by continued attrition, the harder textures of organized bodies. The *Rat*, whose skull is delineated in Fig. 276, belongs, to this tribe. They are all

furnished with two incisor teeth in each jaw, generally very long, and having the exact shape of a chisel; and the molar teeth have surfaces irregularly marked with raised zig-zag lines, rendering them very perfect instruments of trituration. The zygomatic arch is exceedingly slender and feeble; and the condyle is lengthened longitudinally to allow of the jaw being freely moved forwards and backwards, which is the motion for which the muscles are particularly adapted, and by which the grinding operation is performed. The *Beaver*, the *Rat*, the *Marmot*, and the *Porcupine*, present examples of this structure, among the omnivorous rodentia: and the *Hare*, the *Rabbit*, the *Squirrel*, among those which are principally herbivorous.

The *Quadrumana*, or *Monkey* tribes, approach nearest to the human structure in the conformation of their teeth, which appear formed for a mixed kind of food, but are especially adapted to the consumption of the more esculent fruits. The other orders of mammalia exhibit intermediate gradations in the structure of their teeth to those above described, corresponding to greater varieties in the nature of their food. Thus, the teeth and jaws of the *Hyena* are formed more especially for breaking down bones, and in so doing exert prodigious force; and those of the *Sea Otter* have rounded eminences, which peculiarly fit them for breaking shells.