

indeed, neither the organ of smell nor the olfactory nerves are found.* Some physiologists have gone the length of denying the capability of water to serve as the vehicle of odorous effluvia. But as water is known to contain a large quantity of air, which acts upon the organs of respiration, it is easy to conceive that it may also convey to the nostrils the peculiar agents which are calculated to excite perceptions of smell. Fishes are, in fact, observed to be attracted from great distances by the effluvia of substances thrown into the water; and they are well known to have a strong predilection for all highly odoriferous substances. Baits used by anglers are rendered more attractive by being impregnated with volatile oils, or other substances having a powerful scent, such as *asafoetida*, camphor, and musk. Mr. T. Bell† has discovered in the Crocodile and Alligator, a gland, which secretes an unctuous matter, of a strong, musky odour, situated beneath the lower jaw, on each side. The external orifice of this gland is a small slit, a little within the lower edge of the jaw; and the sac, or cavity containing the odoriferous substance, is surrounded by two delicate bands of muscular fibres, apparently provided for the purpose of first bringing the gland into a proper position, and then, by compressing it, discharging its contents. Mr. Bell conceives that the use of this secretion is to act as a bait for attracting fish towards the sides of the mouth, where they can be readily seized in the mode usual to the alligator, which is that of snapping sideways at the objects he aims at devouring.

The organs of smell in Fishes are situated in cavities, placed one on each side, in front of the head; they are merely blind sacs, having no communication with the mouth or throat, and, indeed, no other outlet but the external openings, which are generally two to each sac. The principal entrance is furnished with a valve, formed by a moveable membrane, appearing like a partition dividing each nostril

* Home; Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, i. 17.

† Phil. Trans. for 1827, p. 132.