

find not only animals allied to Crocodiles, and nearly approaching to the Gavial of the Ganges ; but also still more numerous gigantic Lizards, that inhabited the then existing seas and estuaries.

Some of the most remarkable of these reptiles have been arranged under the genus *Ichthyosaurus*, (or Fish Lizard), in consequence of the partial resemblance of their vertebræ to those of fishes. (See Plate 1, Fig. 51, and Plates 7, 8, 9.) If we examine these creatures with a view to their capabilities of locomotion, and the means of offence and defence, which their extraordinary structure afforded to them ; we shall find combinations of form and mechanical contrivances, which are now dispersed through various classes and orders of existing animals, but are no longer united in the same genus. Thus, in the same individual, the snout of a Porpoise is combined with the teeth of a Crocodile, the head of a Lizard with the vertebræ of a Fish, and the sternum of an *Ornithorhynchus* with the paddles of a Whale. The general outline of an *Ichthyosaurus* must have most nearly resembled the modern Porpoise, and *Grampus*. It had four broad feet, or paddles, (Pl. 7), and terminated behind in a long and powerful tail. Some of the largest of these reptiles must have exceeded thirty feet in length.

There are seven or eight known species of the genus *Ichthyosaurus*, all agreeing with one