

if composed of a single bone. Each side of the lower jaw was therefore made up of six separate pieces, set together in a manner that will be best understood by reference to the Figures in Pl. 11.\*

This contrivance in the lower jaw, to combine the greatest elasticity and strength with the smallest weight of materials, is similar to that adopted in binding together several parallel plates of elastic wood, or steel, to make a cross-bow; and also in setting together thin plates of steel in the springs of carriages. As in the carriage spring, or compound bow, so also in the compound jaw of the Ichthyosaurus, the plates are most numerous and strong, at the parts where the greatest strength is required to be exerted; and are thinner, and fewer, towards the extremities, where the service to be performed is less severe. Those who have

\* These figures are selected from various plates by Mr. Conybeare and Mr. De la Beche. Fig. 1 is a restoration of the entire head of an Ichthyosaurus, in which each component bone is designated by the letters appropriated by Cuvier to the equivalent bones in the head of the Crocodile. In the lower jaw, *u*, marks the dental bone; *v*, the angular bone; *x*, superangular or coronoid; *y*, articular bone; *z*, complementary; *g*, opercular. Fig. 2, is part of an under jaw of an Ichthyosaurus, showing the manner in which the flat bones, *v*, *x*, *u*, are applied to each other, towards the posterior part of the jaw. Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, show the manner in which these bones overlap, and lock into each other, at the transverse sections, indicated by the lines immediately above them in Fig. 2. Fig. 8, shows the composition of the bones in the lower jaw, as seen from beneath.