mechanism will best be explained by reference to the figures in Pl. 23.*

In the structure of these teeth, (Pl. 23, Figs. 1, 2, 3), we find a combination of mechanical contrivances analogous to those which are adopted in the construction of the knife, the sabre, and the saw. When first protruded above the gum, (Pl. 23, Figs. 1′. 2′.) the apex of each tooth presented a double cutting edge of serrated enamel. In this stage, its position and line of action were nearly vertical, and its form like that of the two-edged point of a sabre, cutting equally on each side. As the tooth advanced in growth, it became curved

* The outer margin of the jaw (Pl. 23, Fig. 1′. 2′.) rises nearly an inch above its inner margin, forming a continuous lateral parapet to support the teeth on the exterior side, where the greatest support was necessary; whilst the inner margin (Pl. 23, Fig. 1′) throws up a series of triangular plates of bone, forming a zig-zag buttress along the interior of the alveoli. From the centre of each triangular plate, a bony partition crosses to the outer parapet, thus completing the successive alveoli. The new teeth are seen in the angle between each triangular plate, rising in reserve to supply the loss of the older teeth, as often as progressive growth, or accidental fracture, may render such renewal necessary; and thus affording an exuberant provision for a rapid succession and restoration of these most essential implements. They were formed in distinct cavities, by the side of the old teeth, towards the interior surface of the jaw, and probably expelled them by the usual process of pressure and absorption; insinuating themselves into the cavities thus left vacant. This contrivance for the renewal of teeth is strictly analogous to that which takes place in the dentition of many species of existing Lizards.