

between the period at which they leave the egg and their full maturity, they are provided with a more frequent succession of teeth than the mammalia, in order to maintain a duly proportioned supply during every period of their life. As the predaceous habits of these animals cause their teeth, placed in so long a jaw, to be peculiarly liable to destruction, the same provision serves also to renew the losses which must often be occasioned by accidental fracture.

The existence of these remedial forces, thus uniformly adapted to supply anticipated wants, and to repair foreseen injuries, affords an example of those supplementary contrivances, which give double strength to the argument from design, in proof of the agency of Intelligence, in the construction and renovation of the animal machinery in which such contrivances are introduced.

The discovery of Crocodilean forms so nearly allied to the living Gavial, in the same early strata that contain the first traces of the Ichthyosaurus and the Plesiosaurus, is a fact which seems wholly at variance with every theory that would derive the race of Crocodiles from Ichthyosauri and Plesiosauri, by any process of gradual transmutation or developement. The first appearance of all these three families of reptiles seems to have been nearly simultaneous; and they all continued to exist together until the ter-