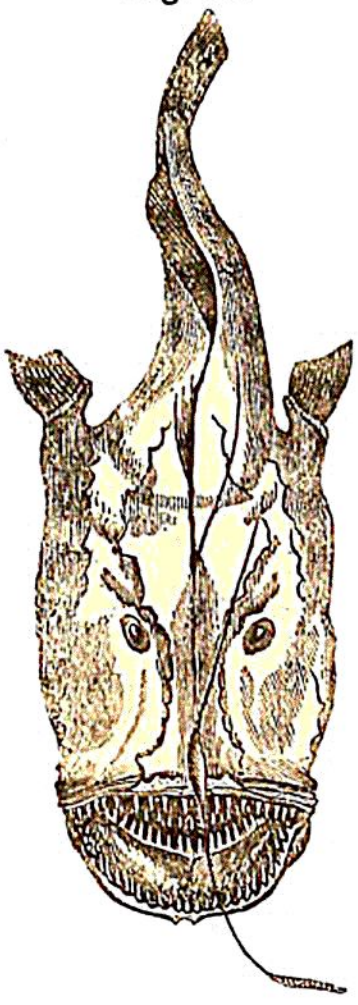
digious depth, or to rise from the bottom to the surface of the ocean.

Fig. 83.



Lophius piscatorius.

If we go from the Cetaceans to the *Amphibians*, we see a further metamorphosis of the organs of motion. The pectoral fins of the former are now become arms, with phalanxes of fingers, claw-armed, but still connected by skin for natatory purposes, and their caudal fin is converted into rudimental legs, with a very short intervening tail, and these legs are still of most use in the water. These circumstances induce some suspicion, especially when we consider that the caudal fin of fishes is their most powerful locomotive organ, that it is the real analogue of the hind legs of the terrestrial mammalians.

The ventral fins sometimes seem to change place with the pectoral ones. This is the case with the fishing-frog tribe, in which the former are nearest to the head, and seem analogous to a pentadactyle hand, while the pectoral ones resemble a leg and foot, and the creature looks like a four-footed reptile.* The Rays,† in a system, are placed at a wide distance from these, and yet they possess several characters in common, particularly in having the hinder part of the body attenuated into a tail more or less slender, and the enormous mouth and gullet of others (*fig.* 53) are armed, as in the sharks, with a tremendous apparatus of teeth. Cuvier observes of one of them,‡ that it can creep

* See Fig. 83, 102. Lophiadæ. Lophius. L. † Raiadæ. Raia. L.

‡ Chironectes.