

the muscles of the head to the apparatus here described ; and, beginning with the jaw, we might go through the whole animal frame and prove that all the parts were skilfully contrived and fitted together so as to minister to the wants of the beings they belong to.

Let us next see what is the structure of the jaw in animals of some different and intermediate order. Perhaps the best for our selection are the *rodentia*, or gnawers. Like the ruminating animals, they are without fangs ; but they have long sharp cutting teeth, meeting together like a pair of pincers. That these implements are useful to the creatures possessing them, no one can doubt. It is by their help that the beaver saws down a tree for his water-dam, that the rat gnaws his way through a board, and that the squirrel drills a hole through the shell of a nut, and extracts the kernel. Most of the animals of this order are herbivorous, and therefore grind their food with flat-topped molar teeth. But how is this duty to be performed, as the front teeth lock together in such a way as to make a transverse grinding movement almost impossible ? It is provided for by a new adjustment. A process of the lower jaw works in a depression of the skull, as in the carnivorous order. The articulation admits however of more play, and its direction, instead of being transverse, is lengthwise, and thus allows the lower jaw to rub, like a carpenter's plane, backwards and forwards upon the upper. Every one must have been struck with this movement who has seen a rabbit eating the leaf of a cabbage. The work of nature would still be left incomplete, were there not also a corresponding adjustment in the enamel of each tooth. We find then, on inspection, that