

museum. The teeth resemble those of the Plesiosaurus in their general aspect, being of a conical form, and longitudinally grooved, and having a long fang; but they are readily distinguished by the sub-triangular form of the crown, produced by the smooth, flat, or slightly convex external surface; approaching in this respect the tooth of the Mosasaurus; from the latter, however, even fragments may be known by the presence of longitudinal ridges. The original was an enormous marine reptile, allied to the Plesiosaurians, but more nearly related to the Crocodilians.\*

II. CROCODILIANS. — The loricated, or mailed Saurian reptiles, the Alligators, Crocodiles, and Gavials, are well known as the largest living forms of cold-blooded oviparous quadrupeds. No relics of any recent species have been observed in a fossil state; but remains of Crocodilians of the existing generic type, having the spinal column composed of concavo-convex vertebræ, (*i. e.* united to each other by a ball and socket-joint), the convexity being behind, or towards the tail, have been found in the Eocene deposits at Hackney, the Isle of Sheppey, on the coast of Western Sussex, and other localities of the London clay. But the Crocodiles of the Wealden, Oolite, and Lias, differ materially in their osteological characters from the recent species, particularly in the structure of the vertebral column;

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\* Brit. Assoc. Rep. 1841, p. 60. Odont. pl. 68.