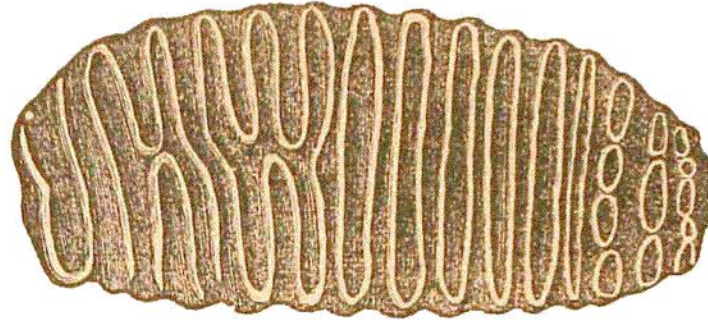


mastodon. This last animal appears to have been the elephant of tertiary days, and is distinguished from the elephant chiefly by the form of the teeth. Fig. 389 shows the tubercular character of the mastodon's tooth, and Fig. 390 the flat surface of the elephant's tooth.

Fig. 390.



Three species of mastodon have been found in the Miocene tertiary, eight in the Pliocene, and three in Alluvium. The great mastodon of this country occurs in the latter, and we shall recur to it again. The elephant has been found in the tertiary of India, but only in alluvium or pleistocene in Europe and America.

The order Sirenia furnishes a remarkable and probably the largest of quadrupeds that have lived on the globe. The mammoth and mastodon have been supposed to be the most gigantic, but they must give place to the *Dinotherium*, described by Cuvier as a gigantic tapir, but by Professor Kaup as a new genus between the tapir and the mastodon; and adapted to that lacustrine condition of the earth which seems to have been so common during the deposition of the tertiary strata. Its remains have been found in tertiary strata, in the south of France, in Austria, Bavaria, India, and especially in Hesse Darmstadt. Its length must have been as much as eighteen feet. One of its most remarkable peculiarities consisted in two enormous tusks, at the anterior extremity of the lower jaw, which curved downwards, like those of the walrus. Its general structure seems to have been adapted to digging in the ground; and for this purpose its feet as well as tusks, projecting a foot or two beyond the jaws, which were four feet long, were intended. It lived principally in the water, like the hippopotamus; and it probably used its tusks for tearing up the roots of aquatic vegetables, which, as is shown by its teeth constituted its food. They might have been useful also to aid in dragging the body out of the water and for defense.