elevated by the growth of a tubercle from the subjacent bone: this tubercle is at first a cartilage, and after it has attained a certain size, becomes ossified, and grows like other osseous structures, first shooting into the form of a lengthened cylinder, and then dividing into branches. It is followed in its elongation by the skin, which during the whole time that the antler is growing is extended over it in every part, forming what is called, from the delicate investment of hair, its *velvet coat*. The blood vessels of the proper membrane of the antler, or *periosteum*, still continuing to supply it with the materials required for its growth and consolidation, deposite so great an abundance of bony matter, that its enlargement is exceedingly rapid. The whole antler, which often weighs nearly thirty pounds, has been known to be completely formed in ten weeks from the time of its first appearance. There is no other instance in the animal kingdom of so rapid a growth; which is the more remarkable from its occurring in a small part of the system, and in a bony structure.

After the antler has attained its full size, a deposition of osseous substance still continous at its base, around the trunks of the arteries which are proceeding along the investing membrane of the bone for the purpose of conveying nourishment. The accumulation of this substance raises a ring called the burr, round that part of the antler; and by encroaching on the arteries themselves, it gradually diminishes their capacity of conveying blood, and they at length become entirely obliterated. The bone, no longer receiving a superabundant nourishment, ceases to grow; the integuments which covered it, decay, and becoming dry and shrivelled, are torn by rubbing against trees, and peel off in long shreds, leaving the antler exposed, which, by the continued effects of the same kind of friction, soon acquires a polished surface.

During many months, the antler being sufficiently nourished by its own interior vessels, continues in a living state, and preserves its connexion with the system. But, at length, the