

of the Beaver and other Rodentia,* supplied the loss that was continually going on at the crown, by the constant addition of new matter at the root, which for this purpose remained hollow, and filled with pulp during the whole life of the animal.†

It is scarcely possible to find any apparatus in the mechanism of dentition, which constitutes a more powerful engine for masticating roots, than was formed by these teeth of the Megatherium; accompanied also by a property, which is the perfection of all machinery, namely, that of maintaining itself perpetually in perfect order, by the act of performing its work.

Lower Jaw.

The lower jaw (Pl. 5, 1. d.) is very large and weighty in proportion to the rest of the head; the object of this size being to afford deep sockets

* The incisors of the Beaver, and other Rodentia, and tusks of the Hog and Hippopotamus, which require only an external cutting edge, and not a grinding surface, are constructed on the same principle as the cutting edge of a chisel or an adze; viz. a plate of hard enamel is applied to the outer surface only, of the ivory of these teeth, and in the same manner as the outer cutting edge of the chisel and adze is faced with a plate of steel, welded against an inner plate of softer iron. A tooth thus constructed maintains its cutting edge of enamel continually sharp, by the act of working against the similarly constructed extremity of the tooth opposed to it.

† Pl. 5, Fig. 11, represents the section of the cavity containing this pulp.