of vertebrata to present examples of teeth developed in the median line (along the middle) of the mouth, as in certain species of Rays; or crossing the symphysis (the *front line of union* of the two sides) of the lower jaw, as in Myliobates* (see Lign. 131, fig. 2.). In some species the teeth are implanted in sockets, to which they are attached only by the soft parts, as in the rostral teeth of the Sawfish; some have hollow bases, supported upon bony prominences, which rise from the base of the socket; as in several fossil teeth from the Chalk. "But by far the most common mode of attachment is by a continuous ossification between the dental pulp and the jaw,"[†] the teeth being thus anchylosed to the In the Sharks the osseous bases of the teeth bone. are attached, by a ligamentous substance, to the tough, dense crust, which covers the cartilaginous jaws; the teeth of these fishes are therefore generally found detached in a fossil state, in consequence of the decomposition of this substance.

The teeth are composed of a dense, osseous material, of a tubular structure, termed *dentine*; which, in many species, forms on the external surface of the tooth a layer of firmer texture, with a glossy surface, resembling enamel. The essential character of their organization is to have a pulp or medullary cavity, or cavities, filled with a plexus of blood-vessels and nerves, from which the minute tubes composing the

* Odontography, p. 5. † Op. cit. p. 6.