

osteological structure a remarkable deviation from all known recent and fossil reptiles; uniting the characters of the head of a lizard, with the teeth of a crocodile, to a neck of inordinate length, with such modifications of the ribs, the pectoral and pelvic arches, and the paddles, as to justify the graphic simile of an eloquent Professor, that the Plesiosaurus might be compared to a serpent threaded through the shell of a turtle. The character which immediately strikes the observer, is the extraordinary length of the neck, and the relative smallness of the head. The neck, which in most animals is formed of but five vertebræ, and in the extremest recent example, the Swan, does not exceed twenty-four, is in the Plesiosaurus, composed of from twenty to forty vertebræ; and, in some species, is four times the length of the head, and equal to the entire length of the body and tail; while the length of the head (in *P. dolichodeirus*) is less than one-thirteenth of the entire skeleton. The skull resembles that of the crocodile in its general form, but is relatively smaller; the breathing apertures are situated anterior to the orbits on the highest part of the head. The lower jaw has the usual structure of the Saurians; but the dentary bone is greatly expanded anteriorly, and united in front (see *Bd.* pl. 19.). The teeth are implanted in separate sockets, as in the crocodile, and there are from thirty to forty on each side the jaws. They are conical, slender, long, pointed, slightly recurved, and longitudinally grooved from