

Among the discoveries in western America, which have thrown so much light upon the history of vertebrate life, mention should be made here of the remarkable assemblage of mammals disinterred from the base of the vast lacustrine Miocene formations on the eastern flanks of the Rocky Mountains. The Brontotheridæ or Titanotheridæ, the largest of these animals, formed a distinct family more nearly allied to the living rhinoceros than to any other recent form.

Considerable uncertainty must be admitted to rest upon the correlation of the later Tertiary deposits in different parts of Europe. In many cases, their stratigraphical

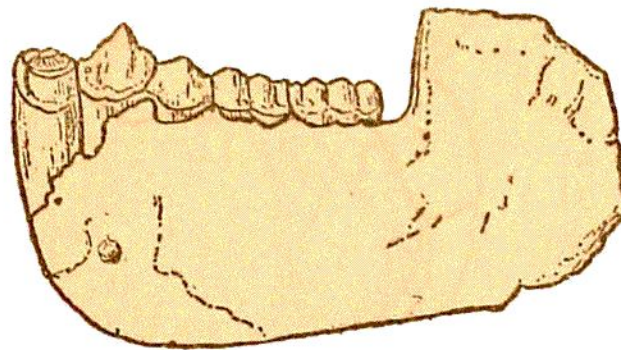


Fig. 441.—Jaw of *Dryopithecus Fontani*, Gaudry (3).

relations are too obscure to furnish any clew, and their identification has therefore to be made by means of fossil evidence. But this evidence is occasionally contradictory. For example, the remarkable mammalian fauna described by M. Gaudry from Pikermi in Attica (postea, p. 1670) has so many points of connection with the recognized Miocene fauna of other European localities, that this observer classed it also as Miocene. He has pointed out, however, that in a shell-bearing bed underlying the ossiferous deposit of Pikermi some characteristic Pliocene species of marine mollusca occur. Remembering how deceptive sometimes is the chronological evidence of terrestrial faunas and