

Its nature and relations in the group have subsequently been more extensively investigated by Reinhardt (*vide supra*, p. 8), who calls it the "os crochu."

When best developed, as in the Albatrosses, the "ossiculum lacrymo-palatinum" is a small styloform ossicle of nearly cylindrical (as in *Thalassiarche culminata*, Pl. VI. fig. 7) or somewhat lamellar (*Phæbetria fuliginosa*, Pl. VI. fig. 8) shape, attached above by an articulation to the inner face of the descending limb of the lachrymal bone, and below connected by a ligament to the upper surface of the palatine bone. Seen from the side, in the dried skull (*vide* Pl. VI. fig. 1) the bone is visible below the malar arch. It lies, in the recent state, in a cavity between the nose and the roof of the mouth, in an oblique position, pointing downwards and inward. This bone is present in all the genera and species of Albatrosses examined by me, as well as in *Thalassiarche chlororhyncha*, as mentioned by Reinhardt. In the Oceanitidæ, in *Procellaria* and *Cymochorea*, as well as in *Daption* and *Pagodroma*, its place is taken by a narrow ligament in which there is no ossification at all. In *Bulweria*, *Pelecanoïdes*, *Fulmarus*, *Thalassæca*, and *Ossifraga* there is a similar ligament, with a small, more or less ossified nodule of bone lying in it, only connected by connective tissue with the surrounding bones. In *Aeipetes*, *Prion*, *Puffinus*, *Majaqueus*, *Adamastor*, and *Æstrelata* it is small and delicate, articulating with the lachrymal above, and ending freely (in the cleaned skull) below.

It is interesting to observe that a very similar bone, both as regards shape and position, occurs in the genus *Fregata* as already pointed out by Reinhardt, whose observation I have been able to verify. But it also occurs in forms so different from these as the Musophagidæ, many Cuculidæ, *Chunga* and *Cariama*, as well as in some Laridæ and Alcidæ, so that its presence is obviously of no particular taxonomic value. Professor Parker informs me that its precise morphological significance is at present rather uncertain.

The palate (*vide* Pl. VI. figs. 2 and 4) is always more or less incomplete below, the fissure dividing it being, by the less degree of inward development of the maxillary processes of the premaxillæ, and of approximation of the inward edges of the maxillo-palatines and palatine bones, longer and wider in the smaller than in the larger forms.

The maxillo-palatine processes are concavo-convex lamellæ, extensively fenestrated, pointing backwards, and with their inner edges appearing but slightly internal to the palatine bones. They remain free from each other in the middle line, and are also unconnected by ossification with the vomer or nasal septum. Hence the Tubinares are in this point strictly schizognathous birds. But in the Albatrosses, where the maxillo-palatines are very large and nearly vertical in position, the space between their inner edges is very narrow, and just in front of them the decurved end of the vomer fills up the intervening chink, especially in *Phæbetria fuliginosa*, where it is firmly fixed to,