

the posterior end of the sternum varies a great deal in its outline in different members of the group.

In most of the larger forms of Procellariidæ, the visceral aspect of the sternum presents, towards its anterior extremity, more or fewer pneumatic apertures, which are best developed in the Albatrosses, where the whole bone is much permeated with air. In *Fulmarus*, and all the smaller forms of Procellariidæ, as well as in the Oceanitidæ, the sternum has no pneumatic apertures at all, and does not contain air.

In the genera *Cymochorea* (fig. 5), *Procellaria*, and *Halocyptena*, as also in *Fregetta* (fig. 7) and *Garrodia*, the posterior margin of the sternum is entire, with only a very slight concavity in the outline of each side. In the Oceanitine genera *Oceanites* and *Pelagodroma* it is very nearly the same in shape, though each side has a small excavation, the margin between the excavations being convex. In *Pelecanoïdes* (fig. 3) also the sternum is nearly straight posteriorly. In the Diomedeinæ (e.g., *Thalassiarche melanophrys*, fig. 1) the posterior angles of the sternum are produced backwards and outwards considerably, and its posterior border is broadly excavated by a sinuous curve, convex externally, concave mesially. In *Diomedea exulans* the inner concave part is divided into two smaller concavities on each side by a process of bone, so that the posterior margin presents four slight notches, the inner pair being the bigger.

In the remaining genera of the group, the posterior border of the sternum is always more or less four-notched posteriorly, the notches being generally best developed and deepest in the genera allied to *Puffinus* and *Majaqueus* (figs. 9–13), whilst in the Fulmarine forms the notches are smaller and tend to be irregular. *Bulweria* (fig. 16) departs widely from any of the so-called Storm-Petrels in the form of its sternum, and approaches closely *Æstrelata*, &c. The exact forms of this notching, which is inclined to vary in different specimens, may be best understood from an inspection of the figures. The outer notch may, as in the specimen of *Adamastor* figured (fig. 18), be converted into a foramen by the partial ossification of the membrane filling it.

The coracoid bones in the smaller genera (*vide* Pl. VII. figs. 5–8) are well-developed, with nearly cylindrical shafts, dilated internally at their distal ends to meet the acromial process of the scapula, whilst proximally they are broad and expanded, and produced externally into a pointed, or slightly hooked process. In *Pelecanoïdes* (figs. 3, 4) these bones diverge at a smaller angle from each other than in the other forms; their shafts are less cylindrical, and the proximal ends comparatively little dilated. In the larger forms, on the other hand, the coracoids become very divergent, and the shaft and both extremities, but particularly the proximal one, are much dilated, so as to assume the extraordinary form seen in *Diomedea* (figs. 1 and 2) and its allies, where the greatest transverse diameter of the bone at its base is nearly as great as its entire length. The external outline of the bone is deeply concave, owing to the great development of its external costal process.