

the animal manages to feed itself under these conditions is a mystery.

It is remarkable that the main mass of each tusk is made up of what appears as an abnormal growth of the fang.* The actual conical tooth, that is the original small cap of dentine of the tooth of the young animal, which corresponds to the part of the tooth showing above the gum in other whales, does not increase at all in size, but is carried up by the growth of the fangs, and remains at the tips of the tusks as a sort of wart-like rudimentary excrescence.

Specimens of *Mesoplodon Layardii* are excessively rare; I sought diligently for some during the whole of my stay at the Cape, and was rewarded by procuring parts of two skulls. One of these, a skull without the lower jaw, I found near Mr. McKellar's, at Cape Point. The skull was exposed on the beach, being stuck up with its beak thrust into the sand to be used as a rifle target.

The animal, as Mr. McKellar told me, had come on shore about eight years before. It yielded oil of a very superior quality, which sold for more than twice the price of ordinary whale oil. It was about 10 feet in length, and was, as far as he remembered, coloured black on the back and white on the belly, with a conspicuous line of demarcation of the colours on the side. The beast had the usual tusks.

The other specimen consisted of the snout and lower jaw, with the tusks of another example of the species. It was given me by Mr. A. M. Black, of Simons Town. The animal came on shore at Walwick Bay in 1869. It yielded 80 gallons of oil, and was from 16 to 18 feet in length. It is remarkable that these whales seem never to be met with or caught at sea. They always are procured by their running on shore. The Ziphioids are especially interesting, because many species were abundant in Tertiary times, and their beaks being so dense in structure as to be readily preserved as fossils, are common in such deposits as the Red Crag of Suffolk. I had the good luck to procure another Ziphioid at the Falkland Islands during the voyage, near Port Darwin.

I stayed at the hotel at Wynberg for a fortnight, whilst working at the anatomy and development of *Peripatus capensis*.

* Prof. Owen, with the single original specimen only before him, considered that the tusks had acquired "an abnormal direction and state of growth" in that particular specimen. "Palæontographical Soc.," Vol. XXIII., 1869, p. 26. Prof. Flower, though knowing of a second specimen, still seems doubtful. "Trans. Zool. Soc.," Vol. VIII., 1874, p. 211. Now that more specimens are known, there can be no longer doubt as to the normal occurrence of the condition described.