

and at its posterior border was doubly festooned, with a slight posterior process in the region of the mesial palatal suture. The vertical plate of the palate bone extended behind the posterior edge of the hard palate, and overlapped the outer surface of the pterygoid. The hamular process was distinct and curved backwards and outwards. In the older males the posterior border of the hard palate was in the same transverse plane as the lower border of the articulation between the malar and the squamoso-zygomatic, and a little in front therefore of the glenoid fossa; but in the female and younger skulls it was in a transverse plane, a little in front of this articulation.

The posterior edge of the nasal septum did not in either sex extend so far back as the posterior nares, and consisted of the posterior border of the vomer, which sloped downwards and forwards, and of an ascending vomerine crest from the palate bone, articulating with the vomer in front of the truncated border.

The alisphenoid canal was absent. The tympanic bulla was smooth and only slightly elevated; its general form was triangular, and prolonged into the greatly elongated wall of the external meatus; it was perforated at the postero-internal angle of the base by the canal for the internal carotid artery, which looked almost directly backwards and was quite distinct from the foramen lacerum posterius. When opened into, the tympanic cavity was seen to consist of a chamber as big as a walnut, with which both the external meatus and Eustachian tube communicated. At the posterior part of the roof and immediately above the orifice of the meatus was a subordinate chamber of the tympanum about the size of a hazel nut, and situated immediately to the outer side of the petrous element; it opened by a narrow fissure into the cranial cavity. As the tympanic ossicles have already been so fully described by Mr. Doran<sup>1</sup> and by Professor Flower,<sup>2</sup> and figured also by the former anatomist, it is unnecessary to redescribe them, as they correspond so closely with the accounts which they have given. I need only state that the stapes showed no trace of a division into crura. The optic foramina opened separately into the cranial cavity, and between them was a mesial plate of bone continuous with a prominent crista galli. The tentorium was partially ossified, although not so extensively as in some seals. In the young skull, the cap of which had been sawn off for the removal of the brain, the transverse diameter of the cranial cavity (148 mm.) was markedly greater than the antero-posterior (127 mm.).

The occipital condyles closely approximated in front, and in the males were separated by a narrow groove. In the females the condyles were more widely divergent than in the males. In one female where the process of maceration was carefully watched, a broad plate of unossified cartilage, continuous with the basis cranii, extended backwards along the inner border of each condyle for 29 mm. from the basi-occipital, so that the foramen magnum was greatly diminished in size, as compared with a fully macerated specimen; in two of the males the corresponding plate of cartilage had undergone a

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.)*, ser. 2, vol. i., 1876.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, January 4, 1861.