

The skull above the orbits is always deeply excavated for the fossæ in which lie the nasal ("supra-orbital") glands. In the Albatrosses there is a strong raised external border to the fossa posteriorly, prolonged from the post-orbital processes, whilst externally this floor, here perforated by numerous apertures, is deeply excavated.

The post-orbital processes are large and strong. The temporal fossæ are well-developed, nearly meeting across the middle line in most, though in the Albatrosses separated by a considerable interval. The occipital plane is inclined downwards and forwards, but in the Albatrosses is nearly vertical. In these birds the digastric fossæ are continuous, meeting each other in the middle line, whilst in the other Tubinares they are separated to a greater or less extent by the wide, smooth, convex cerebellar eminence.

As might be expected, all these fossæ and their bounding ridges are much better developed in the large Albatrosses and Petrels (*Ossifraga*, *Majaqueus*, &c.) than in the small Procellariæ and Oceanitidæ, in which the skull is comparatively smooth, of much thinner texture, and with the cerebellar eminence occupying a much greater extent comparatively. The interorbital septum is well ossified in the larger species, most so in *Diomedea exulans*, whilst in the smaller ones it is very extensively fenestrated.

The lachrymal bone is always well developed, but varies in form in the different groups. In the Oceanitidæ and the small Petrels of the *Procellaria*-group it is T-shaped in form, the long arm of the T being horizontal, extending forwards from the body of the bone (which is nearly vertical) to articulate with the external descending process of the nasal bone, just behind the level of the end of the nostril. Between it and the rest of the skull lies a considerable oval fenestra, occupied by membrane in the recent state. The ascending process articulates with the frontal, forming a well-marked, backwardly-directed, antorbital process, whilst the descending process descends downwards towards the jugal arch, to which it may be united by ligament articulating internally with the considerable antorbital plate of the ethmoid ("ectethmoid," Parker).

In *Pelecanoïdes*, *Puffinus*, *Adamastor*, and *Majaqueus* it has the same relations, but is more triangular in form, and closely abuts on the cranium superiorly, the fenestra being reduced thus to a chink. In the Albatrosses it also remains separate from the skull, and the anterior limb is but little developed as compared with the vertical part, which is swollen, excavated by air-cells, and forms above a strong antorbital process. It loses its connection with the ethmoid. In the remaining genera the lachrymal does not exist as a free bone, being firmly ankylosed to the frontal above and the ethmoid anteriorly (Pl. VI. figs. 1, 3). It is hollow, with one large, and several small, external apertures.

In connection with the descending limb of the lachrymal bone there is often developed a peculiar ossicle, named by Brandt (*cf. supra*, p. 5), who was the first to describe its existence in *Diomedea brachyura* and *Puffinus major*, the "ossiculum lacrymo-palatinum," from its connection with those two bones.