

# NATURAL HISTORY.

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.

BY

WORTHINGTON HOOKER, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN YALE COLLEGE,

AUTHOR OF "HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY," "CHILD'S BOOK OF NATURE,"

ETC., ETC.

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Fig. 54.—Skull of Rodent Animal.

being needed only for crushing; in the Rat they are raised into points, he being carnivorous; while in the herbivorous Rodents they are real grinders, as represented in Fig. 54.

116. The bushiness of the tail is the peculiar characteristic of the Squirrel family. This, when spread out, is of some assistance in the leaping of these arboreal animals, both guiding and buoying them up. In the Flying Squirrel, Fig. 55, there is an arrangement similar to



Fig. 55.—Flying Squirrel.

that of the Flying Lemur, § 57.

117. The American Marmot, or Woodchuck, as it is commonly called, is about the size of a rabbit. It has an underground habitation, divided into apartments, and lives on clover and esculent vegetables. Like some of the Monkeys (§ 52), it has cheek pouches, in which it carries stores of food to its burrow.

118. The Mouse and Rat family is the most numerous of all the families of the Mammalia, and contains the smallest animals. Of the common Mouse, Cuvier says, "it is known in all times and in all places." Of the Rats there are two principal species, the Black Rat, and the Brown or Brownish-gray. The Black Rat is called the old English Rat, which was introduced into England from France as late as the sixteenth century. This is now nearly exterminated by the Brown Rat, which is a stronger animal. This latter Rat was introduced into this