*Pelagic Sharks.—*All these are of large size, and some are surpassed in bulk and length only by the larger kinds of cetaceans.

Those armed with powerful cutting teeth are dangerous to man, whilst others, which are provided with numerous but very small teeth, feed on small fishes only or marine invertebrates, and are of a timid disposition, which causes them to retire into the solitudes of the open sea. On this account we know very little of their life. All pelagic sharks have a wide geographical range, and nearly

all seem to be viviparous.

Of the more remarkable forms which we

propose to notice here the genus most abun- dantly represented in species and individuals is *Carcharias,* now split up by many authors into several separate genera. Perhaps nine-tenths of the sharks of which we read in books of travel belong to this genus. Between

thirty and forty species have been distinguished, all of which are found in tropical seas. They are the sharks which so readily

attach themselves to sailing vessels, following them for weeks. Others affect more the neighbourhood of land. One of the most common species is the blue shark (*Carcharias glaucus),* of which specimens (4 to 6 ft. long) are frequently caught on the S. coasts of England and Ireland. Other species of *Carcharias* attain a length of 30 ft. The mouth of all is armed with a series of large flat triangular teeth, which have a sharp, smooth or serrated edge (fig. 10).

*Galeocerdo* is likewise a large shark very dangerous to man, differing from the preceding chiefly by having the outer side of its teeth deeply notched. It has long been known to occur in the N. Atlantic, close to the Arctic Ocean (*G. arcticus),* but its existence in other parts has been ascertained within a recent period; in fact, it seems to be one of the most common and dangerous sharks of the Indo-Pacific, the

British Museum having obtained specmens from Mauritius, Kurrachee, Madras

and the W. coast of Australia.

Hammerheaded sharks (*Sphyrna=*

*Zygaena)* are sharks in which the anterior portion of the head is produced into a lobe on each side, the extremity of which is occupied by the eye. The relation of this unique configuration of the head to the economy of the fish is unknown. Otherwise these sharks resemble *Carcharias,* and are equally formidable, but seem to be more stationary in their habits. They occur in all tropical and subtropical seas, even in the Mediterranean, where S. *Zygaena* is by no means rare. In the Indian Ocean it is common, and Cantor states that specimens may be often seen ascending from the clear blue depths of the ocean like a great cloud.

The porbeagles *{Lamna)* differ from the preceding sharks in their dentition and are not dangerous to man; at least there is no instance known of a person having been attacked by the species common on the British coast (*L. cornubica).* This is referred to in the works of older British authors as “ Beaumaris shark.” The short and stout form of

its body contrasts strikingly

with its much attenuated

tail, which, however, is streng­thened by a keel on each side

and terminates in a large and

powerful caudal fin. The

snout is pointed, and the jaws

are armed with strong lanceolate teeth, each of which bears

a small cusp on each side of

the base (see fig. 11). The

teeth are not adapted for cut-

ting, like the flat triangular

teeth of man-eating sharks,

but rather for seizing and

holding the prey, which consists chiefly of various kinds

of fishes and cephalopods. In

the upper jaw there are from

thirteen to sixteen teeth on

each side, the third being remarkable for its small size; in the lower jaw from twelve to fourteen. The gill-openings are very wide. The porbeagle attains to a length of 10 or 12 ft., and is a pelagic fish, not rare in the N. Atlantic and Mediterranean, and frequently wandering to the British and more rarely to the American shores. This species is widely distributed over the N. of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Other closely allied species *(L. spallanzanii, L. glauca)* are known to occur in the S. Atlantic, from the Mediterranean to the Cape of Good Hope.

To the genus *Carcharοdon* particular interest is attached, because the single still existing species is the most formidable of all sharks, as were those which preceded it in Tertiary times. The existing species (C. *rondeletii)* occurs in almost all tropical and subtropical seas, but seems to be verging towards extinction. It is known to attain to a length of 40 ft. The tooth figured