orifice of the ear, is a large and elongated parotid gland, from which a membranous duct passes as far forward as the point of union of the two bones forming together the lower mandible, on the inner surface of which the glutinous secretion of these large glands passes out, and may be seen to issue, on making slight pressure along the course of the glands. The flattened inner surface of the two bones, which are united along the distal part of their lower edge, forms the natural situation of the tongue when at rest within the mandibles; and every time it is drawn into the mouth, when the bird is feeding, it becomes covered with a fresh supply of the glutinous mucus. From a close examination of the stomachs of many specimens, I am induced to believe that the point of the tongue is not used as a spear, nor the food taken up by the beak, unless it be too heavy to be lifted by adhesion.

"Insects of various sorts, ants and their eggs, form the principal food; and I have seldom examined a recently-killed specimen the beak of which did not indicate, by the earth adhering to the base and to the feathers about the nostrils, that the bird had been at work at an ant-hill.

"The Green Woodpecker inhabits holes in trees, which it excavates or enlarges for its use, chiefly in the elm or the ash, in preference to those of harder wood. When excavating a hole in a tree for the purpose of incubation, the birds, it is said, will carry away the chips to a distance, in order that they may not lead to the discovery of their retreat, as other birds are known to carry away the egg-shells and the mutings of their young. It makes no nest, but deposits its eggs on the loose, soft fragments of the decayed wood. The eggs are from five to seven in number, smooth, shining, and pure white, 1 inch $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines in length by 10½ lines in breadth. The young birds are fledged in June, and creep about the tree a short distance from the hole before they are able to fly. I have known the young birds to be taken from the tree and brought up by hand, becoming very tame, and giving utterance to a low note, not unlike that of a very young gosling. The adult birds also make a low jarring sound, which is supposed to be the call-note of sexes to each other. Their more common note is a loud sound which has been compared to a laugh, and they are said to be vociferous when rain is impending,—hence their name of Rain-bird; and as it is highly probable that no change takes place in the weather without some previous alteration in the electrical condition of the atmosphere, we can easily understand that birds, entirely covered as they are with feathers, which are known to be readily affected by electricity, should be susceptible of certain impressions, which are indicated by particular actions: thus birds and other animals, covered only with the production of their highly sensible skin, become living barometers to good observers."

The male has the feathers of the base of the upper mandible, the lores, and a space surrounding the eye clothed with black feathers; crown and occipital feathers grey at the base, tipped with bright scarlet; from the base of the lower mandible a broad black moustache, in the centre of which is a brilliant patch of scarlet; neck, back, scapulars, wing-coverts, and wings olive-green, tinged with yellow; rump sulphur-yellow; primaries greyish black, spotted with yellowish white along the outer web and on the basal half of the inner web; secondaries and tertiaries green on the outer web, and greyish black spotted with dull white on the inner web; tail olive-black, indistinctly barred with dull yellowish white; sides of the head, throat, and under surface light yellowish grey; flanks greenish yellow, with zigzag markings of green on the thighs and also on the under tail-coverts; irides creamy or pearl-white; eyelash purplish blue; upper mandible and tip of the lower mandible dull leaden black; the base of the lower mandible greenish yellow, fading into white near the gape; legs, toes, and claws olive-green.

The female is distinguished by having a smaller amount of scarlet on the head, and in the absence of the scarlet patch on the moustache.

In young birds the scarlet of the head is mingled with yellow and greyish black, the feathers changing from greyish white to yellow, and then to scarlet; similar changes take place in the scarlet of the moustache; the feathers of the upper surface are tipped with yellow; the under surface is streaked longitudinally on the neck, and transversely on the abdomen, with greyish black.

M. Malherbe, in his valuable 'Monograph of the Woodpeckers,' enumerates three or four varieties of this species which have come under his notice. These were chiefly remarkable for a deficiency in the usual colouring; but J. H. Gurney, Esq., has described, in the 'Zoologist' (p. 3800), a bird which had recently been presented to him, in which the feathers of the rump and upper tail-coverts were all margined and tipped with a beautiful flame-coloured red, instead of the usual edging of yellow; the feathers of the back were pointed with the beautiful golden-yellow edgings characteristic of the rump, and a similar colouring was observed on the ends of the feathers forming the three lower rows of the wing-coverts. In a subsequent page of the 'Zoologist' (4250), Robert Birkbeck, Esq., has mentioned that in the Museum at Pisa he saw three or four specimens similarly coloured; they are regarded as varieties of *P. viridis*.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size, with a young bird in the distance.