

harmless, though we are told of most terrible effects resulting from its powder when calcined, the absurdity of which is evident, all animal substances being the same when they have passed the fire.

THE LIZARD.



IT is difficult to ascertain to what class in nature lizards are chiefly allied. They are unjustly raised to the rank of beasts, as they bring forth eggs, dispense with breathing, and are not covered with hair. They cannot be placed among fish, as the majority of them live upon land: they are excluded from the serpent tribe, by their feet, upon which they run with some celerity; and from the insects, by their size; for though the newt may be looked upon in this contemptible light, a camelion would be a terrible insect indeed.

As lizards thus differ from every other class of animals, they also differ widely from each other. With respect to size, no class of beings has its ranks so opposite.

The colour of these animals is also very various, as they are found of a hundred different hues, green, blue, red, chesnut, yellow, spotted,