

spotted, streaked, and marbled. Were colour alone capable of constituting beauty, the lizard would often please; but there is something so repulsive in the animal's figure, that the brilliancy of its scales, or the variety of its spots, only tend to give an air of more exquisite venom, of greater malignity. The figure of these animals is not less various; sometimes swollen in the belly; sometimes pursed up at the throat; sometimes with a rough set of spines on the back, like the teeth of a saw; sometimes with teeth, at others with none; sometimes venomous, at others, harmless, and even philanthropic: sometimes smooth and even: sometimes with a long, slender tail; and often with a short blunt one.

But their greatest distinction arises from their manner of bringing forth their young: some of them, particularly the large animals, (among whom is generally ranked the crocodile, already treated of in the fourth volume) are produced perfectly from the egg; some, as most of the *salamander* tribe, are viviparous; and many of the water-lizards are brought forth from spawn, like fish. The whole of them have, nevertheless, many points of similitude,