

gullet for digestion. When the substance in the stomach is dissolved into chyle, it passes into the intestines, and from thence goes to nourishment, or to be excluded by the vent.

The lungs of the serpent are long and large, and no doubt necessary to promote their languid circulation; but though they often appear to draw in their breath, yet there is not the smallest signs of its expiration. The heart is formed as in the tortoise, the frog, and the lizard kinds, so as to work without the assistance of the lungs; whence we are authorized to conclude that snakes are amphibious, equally capable of living on the land, or in the water; and that they are torpid in the winter, like the bat, the lizard, and several other animals.

The vent, in the serpents, serves for the emission of the urine, and fæces, and the purposes of generation; the organs for which, in the male, are double and forked, and the female has two ovaries. They copulate in their retreats, and the ancients have described them, in this situation, to resemble one snake with two heads; but of the truth of this we are unable to determine.