

CHAPTER XVIII.

FOSSIL REPTILES; COMPRISING THE DINOSAURIANS, PTERO-
DACTYLES, TURTLES, SERPENTS, AND BATRACHIANS.

III. DINOSAURIANS. — The term DINOSAURIA (*fearfully-great lizards*), is employed by Professor Owen, to designate the order of extinct colossal reptiles, comprising the *Megalosaurus*, *Hylæosaurus*, and *Iguanodon*, which, in their organization, establish the transition from the Crocodilians to the Lacertians;* and whose essential osteological characters are thus tersely expressed: —

“ This group, which includes at least three well-established genera of Saurians, is characterised by a large *sacrum*, composed of five anchylosed vertebræ of unusual construction; by the height, breadth, and outward sculpture of the neural arch of the dorsal vertebræ; by the two-fold articulation of the ribs to the vertebræ, viz. at the anterior part of the spine by a head and tubercle, and along the rest of the trunk by a tubercle attached to the transverse process only: by broad, and sometimes complicated, coracoids, and long and slender clavicles; whereby Crocodilian characters of the

* Brit. Rep. 1841, p. 144.