

biconcave vertebræ, double-headed ribs, and proportionate size of the bones of the extremities, are nearly allied to the *Teleosaurus*, (see *ante*, p. 723.); but they combine a lacertian form of tooth, and structure of the pectoral, and probably pelvic arches, with these crocodilian characters; having also distinctive modifications: such, for example, as the moniliform spinal chord.

V. PTEROSAURIANS, OR FLYING REPTILES.—  
PTERODACTYLUS (*wing-fingered reptile*). *Wond.* p. 49, 3. *Bd.* pl. 21, 22.—The extinct reptiles denominated *Pterodactyles*, are unquestionably the most marvellous even of the wonderful beings which the relics of the Age of Reptiles have enabled the palæontologist to reconstruct, and place before us in their natural forms and appearance. With a head and length of neck resembling those of a bird, the wings of a bat, and the body and tail of an ordinary mammalian, these creatures present an anomaly of structure as unlike their fossil contemporaries, as is the duck-billed Platypus, or Ornithorhynchus, of Australia, to existing animals. The skull is small, with very long beaks, which extend like those of the crocodile, and are furnished with upwards of sixty sharp, pointed teeth; the orbit is very large, rendering it probable that the animals were nocturnal, like other insectivora (*feeding on insects*). The forefinger is immensely elongated, for the support of a membranous expansion, as in the Bat: and the impres-