

distinct family, the limits of the Chelonioidæ are again circumscribed, as they were at first.

The form of the Chelonioidæ is that of a heart flattened on one side, from the broad end of which projects a large head upon a thick neck, and from the widening side of which protrude, in front, a pair of large, flat, wing-like, scaly flappers, and below the narrow part of which hang another pair of broad, short, scaly rudders. As illustrations of the prominent features of this family, see several attitudes of the Loggerhead Turtle in Pl. 6.

The body is not, as in Sphargididæ, broadest about the arch of the second pair of ribs, where the carapace and plastron first meet to encircle it, but continues to widen from the front end to about midway, and thence narrows to a point behind; while the vertebral column descends constantly and gently along the whole thoracic, abdominal, and pelvic regions to the tail. The carapace is a roof slanting down on either side from the vertebral column, and thus it continues over the pelvis as well as along the thoracic and abdominal regions, and terminates behind the sacrum, by the meeting at a point of the outer edges and the middle line; the only deviation of its outline in passing from the abdominal to the pelvic region being a slight elevation of the lower edge above the hind legs. The carapace is bordered all round by a distinct marginal rim; about the front end this rim is turned downwards, but shortly behind the beginning of the union with the plastron it flares outward, and so continues to the hind end. In consequence of this peculiar form of the marginal rim, the shoulders are much more protected than in the Sphargididæ; its width adds still more to the protection of the hind limbs. The plastron is joined to the carapace from near the arch of the second to between the arches of the sixth and seventh pairs of ribs. The plastron and the carapace meet at a sharp angle, the plastron descending but little below the level of the outer edges. The plastron, like the carapace, grows broad to about midway of the body, and narrows thence backward; it underlies a very large part of the lower surface. The opening about its hind end, for the protrusion of the limbs and tail, is smaller and more under the body than in the Sphargididæ. Thus the shield,—instead of having, as in Sphargididæ, a conical form wrapped closely around the thorax and abdomen, and growing narrow backward in passing over those regions, then narrowing still much faster to pass over the pelvis,—presents here an extended roof-like carapace, with the outer edge sharply defined, flattened upon the sides, broadest about midway, protecting above the whole body from one end to the other, and a plastron which descends but little below the outer edges.

The shield, having a form widely different from that of the Sphargididæ, needs also a different structure and different means of support. Instead of a continuous layer of fibrous corium protected above by a thin bony sheet, we have