

double (such a condylar arrangement begins with the Amphibia, but only the two lateral condyles are developed, while the middle portion, belonging to the basi-occipital element, remains rudimentary*); (4) The formation of centra, or bodies of the vertebræ, mainly by a ventral pair of the original quadruple constituents, or arcualia.

17. Between the Proreptilia and the Mammalia, which latter occur in the Upper Triassic epoch, we have necessarily to intercalate a group of very low reptiles, which are still so generalized that their descendants could branch off either into the Reptilia proper or into the Mammalia. The changes concerned chiefly the brain and the heart; of the skele-

* Similar conditions seem to have prevailed among the Proreptilia; but in those of their descendants which have specialized into Reptiles and Birds the basi-occipital element becomes more and more predominant in that formation which ultimately leads to the apparently single condyle. Hence it is misleading to divide the Tetrapoda into the two main groups of Amphi- and Mono-condylia, and therefrom to conclude that the two-condyled Mammalia are more closely related to the likewise amphicondylous Amphibia than to the so-called monocondylous Reptiles.