

painter and the sculptor do not think of this, when they represent their Fawns dancing and piping ; but an instant's thought of the position of the bones, and the action of the muscles must show that they are incapable of such activity. Were such forms actually in being, they must creep weakly on the ground.

And so of the Griffin : the eagle's wings could never raise the body of a lion. To raise a creature on the wing, there must be a mass of muscle proportioned to the extended wing—and a surface of bony texture for the lodgement and attachment of these muscles for flight. The bones of a lion are dense and heavy, and proportioned to its muscular strength : and to extend the skeleton, composed of such bones, would never form a creature buoyant in the air. By which we see that, were the external forms consistent, there is wanting that internal conformation necessary to the real existence of the animal. The lion's tail, again, would be a very useless appendage, compared with the fine rudder which enables the eagle to direct his swoop.

These instances might be multiplied ; but we venture to say that every animal form, not actually existing in nature, but the invention of the poet, would be deficient in some balance of the exterior members, or some relation of parts necessary for motion ; and were the exterior and moving parts duly balanced, some internal organ would be found not conformable, or displaced—