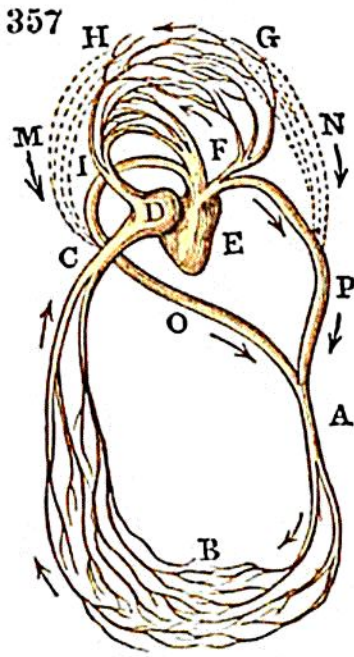


The circulation in Reptiles is not double, like that of fishes; for only a part of the blood is brought under the influence of the air in the pulmonary organs. All the animals belonging to this class are cold-blooded, sluggish, and inert; they subsist upon a scanty allowance of food, and are astonishingly tenacious of life. The simplest form in which we meet with this mode of circulation is in the Batrachia; it is shown in the diagram, Fig. 357. The heart of the Frog, for example, may be considered as consisting of a single



auricle (D,) and a single ventricle (E.*) From the latter there proceeds one great arterial trunk, which is properly the aorta. This aorta soon divides into two trunks, which, after sending branches to the head and neck, bend downwards (as it is seen at O, P,) and unite to form a single trunk (A,) which is the descending aorta. From this vessel proceed all the arteries which are distributed to the trunk and to the limbs, and which are represented as situated at B: these arterial ramifications are continued into the great venous trunks, which, as usual, constitute the venæ cavæ (C,) and terminate in the auricle (D.)

From each of the trunks which arise from the primary division of the aorta, there proceed the small arteries (F,) which are distributed to the lungs (G, H,) and convey to those

* Dr. Davy has observed that although the auricle appears single, when viewed externally, its cavity is in reality divided into two compartments by a transparent membranous partition, in which some muscular fibres are apparent: these communicate with the cavity of the ventricle by a common opening, provided with three semilunar valves. Edin. Phil. Journal; xix. 161.

Mr. Owen informs me that his own observations confirm those of Dr. Davy; and that he has discovered that the *Siren* has also a distinct pulmonic auricle; whence he infers that wherever lungs are sufficiently developed to effect a change in the blood, that fluid is conveyed to the ventricle by a distinct route, and the pulmonary veins thus defended from the pressure of the blood accumulated in the right auricle.