

Ichthyosaurus, to be continually rising to the surface to breathe air.*

Here then we have a race of animals that became extinct at the termination of the secondary series of geological formations, presenting, in their structure, a series of contrivances, the same in principle, with those employed at the present day to effect a similar purpose in one of the most curiously constructed aquatic quadrupeds of New Holland.†

Paddles.

In the form of its extremities, the Ichthyosaurus deviates from the Lizards, and approaches the Whales. A large animal, moving rapidly through the sea, and breathing air, must have

* In both these animals there is superadded to the ordinary type of bones in quadrupeds, an enlargement of the coracoid bone (c), and a peculiar form of sternum, resembling the furcula of birds. In Pl. 12, Fig. 1, a. represents the peculiar sternum or furcula; b. b. the clavicles; c. c. the coracoid bones; d. d. the scapulæ; e. e. the humeri; f. g. the radius and ulna. At Fig. 2, the same letters are attached to the corresponding bones of the Ornithorhynchus.

The united power of all these bones imparts to the chest and paddles peculiar strength for an unusual purpose; not so much to effect progressive motion (which, in the Ichthyosaurus, was produced with much greater facility and power by the tail), as to ascend and descend vertically in quest of air and food.

† The Echidna, or spiny Ant-eater, of New Holland, is the only known land quadruped that has a similar furcula and clavicles. As this animal feeds on Ants, and takes refuge in deep burrows, this structure may be subsidiary to its great power of digging. A cartilaginous rudiment of a furcula occurs also in the Dasypus; and seems subservient to the same purpose.