

introduced for the purpose of giving rapid motion in the water to a Lizard inhabiting the element of fishes; so the further adoption of a structure in the legs, resembling the paddles of a Whale, was superadded in order to convert these extremities into powerful fins. The still further addition of a furcula and clavicles, like those of the *Ornithorhynchus*, offers a third and not less striking example of selection of contrivances, to enable animals of one class to live in the element of another class.

If the laws of co-existence are less rigidly maintained in the *Ichthyosaurus*, than in other extinct creatures which we discover amid the wreck of former creations, still these deviations are so far from being fortuitous, or evidencing imperfection; that they present examples of perfect appointment and judicious choice, pervading and regulating even the most apparently anomalous aberrations.

Having the vertebræ of a fish, as instruments of rapid progression; and the paddles of a Whale, and sternum of an *Ornithorhynchus*, as instruments of elevation and depression; the reptile *Ichthyosaurus* united in itself a combination of mechanical contrivances, which are now distributed among three distinct classes of the animal kingdom. If, for the purpose of producing vertical movements in the water, the sternum of the living *Ornithorhynchus* assumes