

at a great distance, but are furnished with a nictitant membrane like birds; and that the greater part can contract the pupil like cats, which enables them to see in the dark. Their other organs furnish them with but few sensations: they communicate less frequently and less perfectly with external objects; their blood is cold, and will circulate a long time without communication with the air. They will bear very long fasts without injury; and those of some tribes, the Chelonians at least, will survive for a time the loss of their brain, their heart, and even their head. These circumstances are found in those that only occasionally seek subterranean retreats, or seclusion from the light and the air; but those whose existence is wholly subterranean, doubtless, like the *Proteus*, would be fitted by their organization for their destined abode. We see, in several of those we are acquainted with, except at certain times, a constant effort to escape not only from observation, but from immediate contact with the light and the air.

This leads me further to observe, that there is one instance of a Saurian, at this time known to be in existence, that is perfectly subterranean, which never makes its appearance on the earth's surface, but is always concealed at a considerable depth below it; and, what is worthy of particular notice, by its structure, is connected with one of the larger Saurians, now found only in a fossil state. It will immediately be perceived that I allude to that most extraordinary animal, the *Proteus anguinus*, which is found in subterranean lakes and caves two or three hundred feet below the surface of the ground in Illyria, breathing both by lungs and gills, and presenting characters which connect it with the Saurian monsters before alluded to, whose remains have occasioned so much astonishment, appear to have puzzled in some measure the most acute geologists, and have given birth to an hypothesis I shall hereafter notice. Sir H.