

before stated, both a dorsal and ventral series, must enable them to move with considerable rapidity: those indeed that have observed their proceedings, describe them as both swimming and running with admirable ease and speed.*

There is a class of vertebrated animals, the *Ophidians* or serpents, which exhibit considerable analogy to many of the Annelidans, not only by their form and undulating movements, but also by the organs which effect their progressive motions, not indeed by means of bristles, but of parts that, pushing against the plane of position, propel the animal in any direction according to its will.

But the way in which this is effected having been clearly and most ably explained by an eminent and learned physiologist,† I need not here enlarge upon it, but only observe that the motion of one tribe of the Myriapods, though produced by *legs*, exactly imitates that of the Ophidians, though produced by *ribs*; and very amusing it is to see the propagation of it from one extremity to the other in the Millepedes, like wave succeeding wave in the water: a still more striking analogy, as has been already remarked,‡ is exhibited by the larger centipedes, which seem almost models of the skeleton of a serpent.

Serpents thus can move not only horizontally, but also up the trunks of trees, probably in a spiral direction, and some are said to have the power of darting from one tree to another. As these animals are not annulated, like the Annelidans, and cannot originate and continue motion by the alternate contraction and extension of the rings or segments of their body, which the nature of their integuments, their vertebral column, and muscular fibre probably

* See Otho Fabricius Faun. Groenland, 289, 298, &c.

† Dr. Roget.

‡ See above, p. 52.