

their element, may be regarded as more analogous to what are called *paddles*, by which term the natatory apparatus of the Chelonian reptiles, and of the marine Saurians, hitherto found only in a fossil state, are distinguished. These in the former, the turtles, are formed by the legs and toes being covered by a common skin, so as to form a kind of fin, the two first toes of each leg being armed with a deciduous nail. The coriaceous turtle,* the parent of the Grecian lyre, which presents no small analogy to the Amphibians, has no scales either upon its body or feet, but both are covered with a leathery skin, even its shell resembling leather, and, therefore, it connects the paddles of the Chelonians with those of the marine Mammalians. It may be defined as a natatory organ, formed of several jointed digitations, covered by a common leathery or scaly integument. In the fossil Saurians the paddle appears to be formed of numerous bones, arranged in more than five digitations, but it is shorter and smaller, and seems better calculated for still waters and a waveless sea than to contend with the tumultuous fluctuations of the open ocean.†

Next to the *paddles* of the Turtles and fossil Saurians, come the palmated or web-foot of the aquatic tortoises, and of numerous oceanic birds, in which the toes are united by a common skin. In the paddle the leg and toes together form the natatory organ; in the palmated, or lobed foot, the toes. Thus from fins we seem to have arrived at digitated legs.

6. *Wings*.—Turning from the denser medium of water, we must next inquire what organs have been given to animals by their Creator to enable them to traverse the rarer medium of air, to have their hold upon what to the sight

* *Sphargis coriacea*.

† See *Philos. Trans.* 1816. t. xvi. and 1819. t. xv.