

suspension. The first are found in *insects*, in which they are distinct from the legs; in *birds*, in which the anterior leg of quadrupeds becomes a wing; and in *bats* and *vampyres*, in which both the anterior and posterior legs support the wing.

The second kind of wings is found in the *flying cat*, the *flying squirrel*, and the *flying opossum*; and, under a different form, in the *flying dragon* of modern zoologists.

The wings of *insects* differ materially from those of birds, and of certain Mammalians: for instance, the bats and vampyres, since in them they are not formed by skin or membrane, attached to the fore leg, or both legs, but are distinct organs implanted in the trunk, usually leaving the animal its classical number of legs, for its locomotions on *terra firma*. These organs are composed of two membranes, closely applied to each other, and attached to elastic nervures issuing from the trunk, and accompanied by a spiral trachea or air-vessel. These nervures vary in their number and distribution: in some insects the wing has none except that which forms its anterior margin,* and in others the whole wing is reticulated by them;† the longitudinal ones often give an inequality to the surface, and form it into folds, which probably, in flight, it can relax or contract according to circumstances. In some genera‡ the wing is folded longitudinally in repose, and in others also transversely.§ In the higher animals the wings never exceed a single pair; but in insects the typical number is four; and though some are called *Dipterous*, or two-winged, yet even a large proportion of these have, in the winglets,|| the rudiment of another pair. The anterior pair, called elytra, &c., in the beetles, and some others, are principally useful to cover and protect the wings when unemployed,

* Psilus, &c. See Jurine Hymenopt. t. v. and xiii. G. 48.

† Libellulinæ.

‡ Vespidæ.

§ Coleoptera.

|| Alulæ.