

being three, and the external two (*fig. 87*), but in the hind the internal fingers are three, and the external two (*fig. 87*), and these fingers have crooked claws." By this structure of the feet, and arrangement of the fingers or toes, the three-toed lobe is on one side of the branch at the anterior extremity of the animal, and on the other at the posterior, and by this counteraction of each other's pressure, enable it to maintain its position against any force that may be likely to disturb it. The lobes are longer than the fingers, and thus by their means it can hold very firmly, and watch the flies and insects which form its food, and are entrapped by the gluten with which its long tongue is besmeared.

The analogue of the fore-leg of quadrupeds in *birds*, as we have seen, is converted into an organ of flight, and cannot be employed as an organ of prehension; sometimes, indeed, in their combats, it is used to annoy their opponents, and is occasionally armed with a spur, but the prehensory faculty is transferred to the beak and the remaining pair of legs; with these latter the eagles and other birds of prey usually seize the animals that they devour; with these also fructivorous birds, as the parrots, paroquets, &c., hold the fruit while they eat it, and the Gallinaceous Order scratch the earth to find food for themselves and chicks; the foot of birds is most commonly tetradactyle, with one toe or thumb at the heel and the other three in front; in one order,* the birds forming which have occasion to fix themselves firmly on their perch, the thumb and the external toe both point backwards, so as to form a cross with the others and the rest of the leg. In the emu the foot consists of three toes, and in the ostrich of only two, there being no thumb in either. Many of the aquatic birds have the toes connected by membrane, and so forming

* Scansores.