

proceedings of animals, with regard to their young, from an excitement analogous to that which Dr. Jenner first noticed in the swallow;* upon which he observes—"The economy of the animal seems to be regulated by some *external* impulse, which leads to a train of consequences,"† and which does not cease its action till it has accomplished the end for which it was given, namely, the procreation; oviposition preceded by nidification, incubation, hatching, or birth; nutrition and education of the young progeny of each individual kind, according to the general law of the Creator.

We know very little of the proceedings of the remaining Classes of Vertebrates—which are distinguished by having cold blood—the *Reptiles*, namely, and the *Fishes*; except that they do not feel that instinctive love for their young, after birth, exhibited by the quadrupeds and birds. They, however, are invariably instructed by the Creator to select a proper place in which to deposit their eggs, where they can be hatched either by artificial or solar heat. Those of some *Ophidians*, as snakes, are buried in sand, and not seldom even in heaps of fermenting manure; while those of venomous ones are hatched in the womb of the dam, and come forth in the serpentine form. The *Saurians* also select a proper place for their eggs, and then desert them; the crocodile buries hers in the sands near the river; where many, however, are devoured by the ichneumon, and its other enemies, and are even relished by man. In the *Batrachian* Order one species of *salamander*‡ commits a single egg to a leaf of the *Persicaria*, which it protects by carefully doubling the leaf, and then, proceeding to another, repeats the same manœuvre, till her oviposition is finished:§ the *toads* and *frogs* lay their eggs in the water, the former

* Philos. Trans. 1824. 20.

† Ibid. 25.

‡ Salamandra platycauda.

§ Edinb. Phil. Journ. ix. 110.