

its vast lungs, when its body becomes transparent. Cuvier is of opinion that it is the size of the lungs of these animals that enables them to change their colour, not in order to assume that of the bodies on which they happen to be, but to express their wants and passions. He supposes that the blood, being constrained to approach the skin, more or less, assumes different shades, according to the degree of transparency.* The Rev. L. Guilding, however, mentions another genus,† the species of which, when in search of prey, adapt their colour to the green tree or dark brown rock on which they lie in ambush.‡ As these animals have the power of inflation, at least partially, by assuming a degree of transparency, they may appear of the colour of the substance they are standing upon, a remark which may also apply to the chameleon. The object of this may be to conceal themselves from their enemies as well as from their prey.

The *Guanas*,§ also, are said to change their colour; they are remarkable, as well as the *Anolis*, for the kind of goitre in their throat, which, when irritated or excited, they can inflate to a large size. These animals, though their flesh is said to be unwholesome, in the countries they frequent are highly prized for the table, and are often hunted with dogs. Their eggs also are in request.

The *Monitors*, or *safeguards*, as the French call some of them, deserve notice, because one species|| is said to assist in the diminution of the crocodile, since, like the ichneumon, it devours its eggs, and even the young ones, on which account it is supposed to be sculptured on the monuments of the ancient Egyptians. This name was given them because they were believed to warn people, by hissing, of the approach of the crocodile, or venomous reptiles.

* Règne. An. ii. 59.

§ *Iguana vulgaris*.

† *Anolis*.

|| *M. niloticus*.

‡ Zool. Journ. iv. 165.