

this appears to be all that is generally done by the two first classes of Vertebrates, the Fishes, and the Reptiles.

MAMMALIA. (*Beasts.*)

Animal vertebrated, ovoviviparous, or viviparous.

Extremities ambulatory, or natatory ; in a few organized for flight.

Integument pilose ; sometimes spinose, or armed with hard scales or plates ; and sometimes naked. *Young* not hatched by incubation, but when first extruded from the matrix, receiving their nutriment by suction, till they can support themselves.

Circulation double. *Blood* red, warm.

Respiration simple. *Lungs* thoracic.

Cuvier seems to have laboured under some difficulty with regard to the *Classification* of Mammalians, and to have regarded the Marsupians and Monotrèmes as forming a *distinct* Class, divisible, for the most part, into Orders analogous to those into which the Class of common Quadrupeds is divisible.* Subsequent observations have proved the general correctness of this idea. Mr. Owen observes to me, in a letter, "Dissections of most of the genera of *Marsupians* have tended to confirm in my mind the propriety of establishing them as a distinct and parallel group, beginning with the *Monotrèmes*, which I believe to lead from *Reptiles*, not birds. A general simplicity in the structure of the brain ; a less perfect condition of the vocal organs ; some peculiar dispositions of the great veins and arteries, as the presence of two superior *venæ cavæ*, and the absence of an *inferior mesenteric artery*, are among the circumstances in which they, the Marsupians and Monotrèmes differ

* Règn. An. i. 174.