

knows how attentive feline animals are to these circumstances; and the Rodents often excavate burrows in which they bring forth and suckle their young. The Marsupian Mammalians probably are exposed to external circumstances, which render it necessary that they should have a kind of nidus formed of the skin of their own body, to receive their young when they leave the matrix, at which period they seem to be in a more helpless state than any of the animals last alluded to.*

From this statement we see that the graminivorous and omnivorous animals, whose food is always at hand, come into the world the best prepared for action; while the carnivorous ones, and those that must, if I may so speak, procure their daily bread by the sweat of their brows, require to be in some degree *educated* for their function,† before they can duly exercise it. In the instance of the *Ornithorhynchus*, a burrow‡ seems to supply the place of the marsupial pouch, which indicates some approach to many of the Rodents.

Sub-class 1. Ovoviviparous Mammalians.

Chorion, or external membrane of the egg, not rendered vascular by the extension of the foetal vessels into it. *Embryo* not adhering to the uterus.

Only one *passage* out of the body.

Marsupial bones in all.

This Sub-class is divided into two Orders, *Monotremes*, and *Marsupians*.

Order 1.—Monotremes (Ornithorhynchus; Echidna.)

No marsupial *pouch*. *Coracoid bones* extended to the sternum. Young suckled from a *mammary orifice*: brought up in *burrows*. *Animal* predaceous.

* Owen in Philos. Tr. 1834, 344.

† See above, p. 191.

‡ Owen, ubi supr. 564.