

just named does not leave the womb of its mother as an egg, requiring her incubation to complete its birth; but in the form it is afterwards to maintain, in which case it must necessarily derive its support from her, by some lactescent organ, traces of which have been discovered. Its beak, resembling that of a duck, and its webbed feet, seem to connect it, in some degree, with the first Order of the *Birds*; but the entire scapular apparatus, the development of the oviduct and uterus on both sides, the absence of the ligamentum teres, its four legs, and reptant motions, show that it is most nearly connected with the *Reptiles*. The Echidna, by its extensile tongue, its food, and mode of taking it, approaches the ant-eaters; it also rolls itself up like an armadillo. The functions of the Order seem to be to keep in check the numbers of small animals; the Echidna, the *ants*; and the Ornithorhynchus, which frequents the waters, some that are *aquatic*. But we know very little of their habits and history.

Order 2.—The animals of this Order are partly herbivorous, and partly carnivorous. The wombat,* the koala,† the kangaroo,‡ and other New Holland species, are herbivorous: the phalangist§ of the Moluccas lives upon the trees, and devours insects as well as fruits. The New Holland opossums || are very voracious, and devour carcasses as well as insects: they enter into the houses, where their voracity is very troublesome. That most common in America,¶ like the fox, attacks poultry in the night, and sucks their eggs. It is said to produce often sixteen young ones in one litter, which, when first born, do not weigh more than a *grain* each! though blind and almost shapeless, when placed in the pouch they instinctively find the nipple, and

* Phascolomys.

† Macropus.

|| Dasyurus.

† Lipurus.

§ Phalangista orientalis.

¶ Didelphis virginiana.