

term *amphibious*. In man, and the other terrestrial viviparous animals, the *foramen ovale* of the heart, which permits the foetus to live without respiration, is shut at the moment of its birth, and remains closed during life. In these, on the contrary, it is always open, notwithstanding the females bring forth their young on land; and their respiration begins and operates immediately after birth, as it does in every other animal. By means of this perpetual aperture in the septum, subsisting and permitting the communication of the blood from the *vena cava* to the *aorta*, these animals have the advantage of breathing or not at pleasure. This singular property is common to all three; but each has peculiar faculties, which we shall notice as far as possible, in the history of the different species.

THE SEAL.

THE Seal (*fig. 192.*) in general has a round head, like the human species; a broad muzzle like the otter; eyes large and elevated; little or no external ears, having only two auditory