

vertebræ had more of the forms and articulations of the lizards; but what distinguished it from all oviparous and viviparous quadrupeds, was a slender neck as long as its body, composed of thirty and odd vertebræ, a number greater than that of the neck of any other animal, rising from the trunk like the body of a serpent, and terminating in a very small head, in which all the essential characters of that of the lizard family are observed.

If any thing could justify those hydras and other monsters, the figures of which are so often presented in the monuments of the middle ages, it would incontestibly be this plesiosaurus. *

Five species are already known, of which the most generally distributed (*P. dolichodeirus*) attains a length of more than twenty feet.

A second species (*P. recentior*), found in more modern strata, has the vertebræ flatter.

A third (*P. carinatus*) shews a ridge on the under surface of its vertebræ.

A fourth, and lastly a fifth (*P. pentagonus* and *P. trigonus*), have the ribs marked with five and three ridges. †

These two genera are found everywhere in the

* Researches, &c. vol. v. part ii. p. 475, *et seq.*

† Researches, vol. v. part ii. p. 485 and 486.