

ventricle, the blood is driven through the main arterial trunk, called the *aorta*, (Fig. 90, *a*,) and is distributed by its branches throughout the body; it is then collected by the veins, carried back to the heart, and poured into the right auricle, (Fig. 85, *r a*,) which sends it into the right ventricle (*r v*.) The right ventricle propels it through another set of arteries, the *pulmonary arteries*, (Fig. 90, *p*,) to the lungs, (*l*;) it is there collected by the *pulmonary veins*, and conveyed to the left auricle, (Fig. 85, *l a*,) by which it is returned to the left ventricle, thus completing the circuit.

241. Hence the blood in performing its whole circuit passes twice through the heart. The first part of this circuit, the passage of the blood through the body, is called the *great circulation*; and the second part, the passage of the blood through the lungs, is the *lesser* or *pulmonary circulation*: this double circuit is said to be a *complete* circulation. In this case the heart may be justly regarded as two hearts conjoined, and in fact the whole of the lesser circulation intervenes in the passage of the blood from one side of the heart to the other; except that during the embryonic period there is an opening between the two auricles, which closes as soon as respiration commences.

242. In reptiles, (Fig. 86,) the venous blood from the body is received into one auricle, and the oxygenated blood from the lungs into the other. These throw their contents into the single ventricle below, which propels the mixture in part to the body, and in part to the lungs; but as only the smaller portion of the whole quantity is sent to the lungs in a single circuit, the circulation is said to be *incomplete*. In the Crocodiles, the ventricle has a partition which keeps separate the two kinds of blood received from the auricles; but the mixture soon takes place by means of a special artery, which passes from the pulmonary artery to the aorta.

243 In fishes, (Fig. 87,) the blood is carried directly