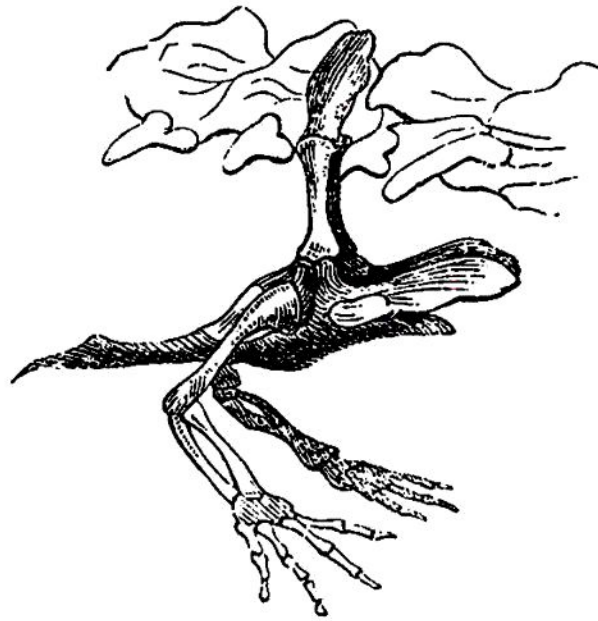


siren and proteus; where the ribs are reduced to a very few imperfect processes, attached to the anterior dorsal vertebræ; and where the bones of the shoulder, being deprived of all support from the thorax, depend upon themselves for security. Here the bones corresponding to the sternum, clavicles, and scapulæ, are found cling-



ing to the spine, and forming, like the pelvis,* a circle, to the lateral part of which the humerus or arm bone is articulated.

In the chelonian order,† the tortoises, we see another design accomplished, in the union of these bones; and the change is owing to a very curious circumstance. The spine and ribs of

* The pelvis is the circle of bones on which the spine or backbone rests, and in which are the sockets for the heads of the thigh bones.

† See again the Appendix, iii. Class of Vertebrata.