

their processes and articulations, and suited to the varying uses of the parts; and we may observe that there is no change in any part of the body—whether in the spine, or the occiput, or the jaws, or the teeth, or the pelvis, or the extremities—without a corresponding adaptation extending through the whole skeleton.

IMAGINARY ANIMALS.

ARCHDEACON PALEY has said, “no doubt we can imagine a greater variety of animals than do actually exist.” But what is the fact? If we look to the fabled animals of antiquity, not one of them could have existed; and it may serve to show the imperfection of man’s ingenuity compared with nature, and at the same time demonstrate the perfection of the system of the animal body, if for a moment, we survey these imaginary animals and enquire whether they could have fed, or breathed, or moved, or flown.

What, in fact, are these monstrous fancies, but the incongruous union of parts, which, patched together without order or system, could not have belonged to a living creature. Nor is there any real invention here; as when the head of a lion is joined to the belly of a goat, or the head of a woman to the body of a bird, or to the tail of a serpent. Of the Centaurs, the Satyrs of the