

nal, which, indeed, it scarcely exceeds in its diameter. The bones of the face, are, at the same time, expanded laterally, so as to bear no proportion to the cranial cavity. The head plays on the vertebral column by two lateral articular surfaces, formed upon the root of each leaf of the occipital bone, while its body, or basilar portion, is scarcely connected with the first cervical vertebra, and has no articular surface.

In place of ribs, we find only small, slender, detached bones, or rather cartilages, affixed to the extremities of the transverse processes of some of the vertebræ. They may be regarded as rudimental ribs.*

The pelvis consists of two slender and elongated iliac bones, which are extended backwards, and which, at their anterior extremities, merely touch the points of the transverse processes of the last vertebra of the back. This vertebra is much broader than the rest, and, although it consists but of a single bone, must be considered as a sacrum. The two pubic and ischiatic bones are exceedingly small, but still contribute to form the acetabulum, or cavity for the reception of the thigh bone, at the hinder extremity of the slender bones above mentioned. This is the simplest possible form to which the pelvis can be reduced, while it preserves its attachments to the spine. It presents, in this respect, a more advanced stage of development than that of fishes.

The connexion of the bones of the anterior extremities with the spine is analogous to that which takes place in rays and sharks; there being an ossous belt formed by the scapula, clavicle, and coracoid bone, with the latter of which the humerus is connected. The sternum is large and considerably developed; making some slight approach to the expansion it receives in the *Chelonia*. The radius and ulna are united into one bone: the bones of the arm and leg, in

* The plan of reproduction in these animals requires that the ovary, or organ which contains the eggs, should be capable of enormous dilatation, in order to contain the immense bulk to which these eggs are expanded, previously to their being brought forth. It was probably in order to make room for this dilated ovary that the ribs have not been developed.