

situated so as to be put upon the stretch, when the former are in action. By the contractions of these muscles, the orifices of the cavities, or sacs to which they belong, are opened, and the serrated edges applied accurately to the surfaces with which the feet are in contact. Sir Everard Home, in his account of this structure, compares it to the sucking disk of the *Remora*.* By its means the animal is enabled to walk securely upon the smoothest surfaces, even in opposition to the tendency of gravity. It can run very quickly along the walls or ceiling of a building, in situations where it cannot be supported by the feet, but must depend altogether upon the suspension derived from a succession of rapid and momentary adhesions.

Although the Sauria are better formed for progressive motion than any of the other orders of reptiles, yet the greater shortness and oblique position of their limbs, compared with those of mammiferous quadrupeds, obliges them in general to rest the weight of the trunk of the body on the ground, when they are not actually moving. None of these reptiles have any other kind of pace than that of walking, or jumping; being incapable of performing either a trot or a gallop, in consequence of the obliquity of the plane in which their limbs move. The *Chameleon* walks with great slowness and apparent difficulty; and we have seen that, in consequence of the structure of the bones of its neck, the *Crocodile*, though capable of swift motion in a straight line, is unable to turn itself round quickly. The general type of these reptiles, having reference to an amphibious life, has not attained that exclusive adaptation to a terrestrial existence, which we find in the higher orders of the Mammalia. But before proceeding to consider these, we have to notice a singular group of animals, whose conformation appears to be exceedingly anomalous, and as if it interrupted the regularity of the ascending series, of which it seems to be a collateral ramification.

* Philosophical Transactions for 1816, p. 151, and 325.