

sion only, they are destitute of a clavicle. In most of those which follow, and where a greater development of the limb confers more extensive and more varied powers of motion, applicable to a greater range of objects, this bone is found. In the greater number, however, it is merely in a rudimental state; that is, developed only to a certain extent, one portion being bony, and the rest cartilaginous; as if the ossification had been arrested at an early stage. These imperfect clavicles are too short to connect the scapula with the sternum; the rest of the space being eked out by cartilage, and by ligaments: but, still, they are of great use in affording points of attachment to the muscles of the limb, and giving them the advantage of acting by a rigid lever. The carnivorous tribes, which make considerable use of their fore paws in striking and seizing their prey, have clavicles of this description. Those quadrupeds which have to execute still more complex actions with their fore feet, have perfect clavicles, extending from the shoulder to the chest, and connecting the bones of the anterior extremity with the general frame-work of the skeleton. This is the case in a large proportion of the family of *Rodentia*, such as the *Squirrel*, which employs its paws for holding objects; and the *Beaver*, which likewise makes great use of its fore feet, which might almost be termed hands, in building its habitation.* Animals that dwell in trees, and require to grasp with force the branches in moving along them, such as the *Sloth*, have also distinct clavicles. Animals which rake or dig the ground, as the *Mole*, the *Ant-eater*, and the *Hedge-hog*, are all provided with these bones, which, by keeping the shoulders at the same constant distance from the trunk, and affording a firm axis for the rotatory motions of the limb, materially assist them in the performance of these actions.

* The beaver presents a singular modification in the structure of the tail, which is expanded into a flattened oval disk, covered by a skin beset with scales; and which is used by the animal as a paddle for supporting itself on the water, or for quickly diving to the bottom. There does not appear to be any truth in the opinion commonly entertained, that the Beaver employs its tail as a trowel for plastering the mud walls of its dwelling.