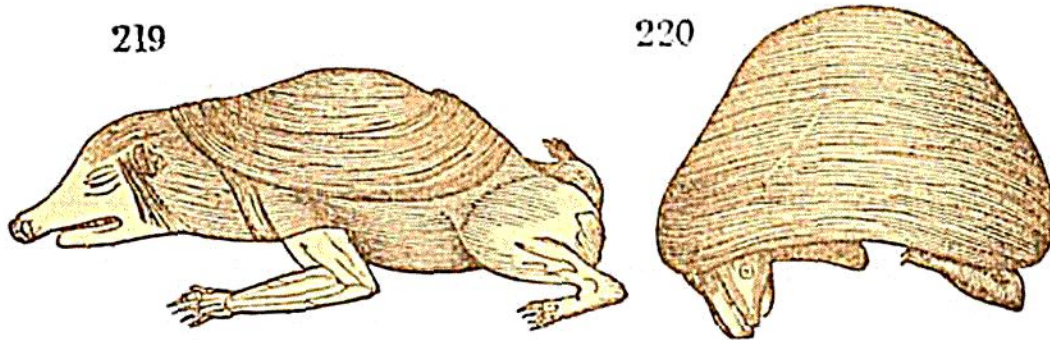


back (as represented in Fig. 219,) contracted into a thick oval disk, of which the fibres are much accumulated at the circumference. From the edges of this disk there pass



down auxiliary muscles towards the lower parts of the body; the action of which muscles tends to draw the skin downwards, and to coil it over the head and paws, in the manner shown in Fig. 220, like the closing of the mouth of a great bag.

§ 10. *Carnivora.*

THE type of the Mammalia may be considered as having attained its full development in the carnivorous tribes, which comprehend the larger beasts of prey. As their food is animal, they require a less complicated apparatus for digestion than herbivorous quadrupeds, possess greater activity and strength, and enjoy a greater range of sensitive and intellectual faculties. In accordance with these conditions, we may notice the greater expansion of their brain, the superior acuteness of their senses, and their enormous muscular power. The trunk of the body is lighter than that of vegetable feeders, especially in the abdominal region, and is compressed laterally: the spine is more pliant and elastic,* the limbs have greater freedom of motion, the extremities are more subdivided, and they are armed with

* The suppleness of the spine might at once be inferred, on the simple inspection of the skeleton, from the circumstance that the vertebræ of the neck and loins have a comparatively small development of their spinous processes.