

Some of the more remarkable deviations from what may be considered as the standard conformation, may, however, for a moment arrest our attention.

The *Ostrich*, of all birds, presents the greatest number of exceptions to the general rules which appear to regulate the conformation of birds, and in many of its peculiarities of structure it makes some approach to that which characterizes the quadruped. Though this bird is provided with wings, it was evidently never intended that they should be used for the purposes of flight. Hence the chief muscular power has been bestowed on the legs, which are remarkably thick and strong, and well fitted for rapid progression. The sternum is flat, and does not present the keel-like projection which is so remarkable in that of all other birds. The clavicles do not reach the sternum, nor even meet at the anterior part of the chest to form the furcular bone: for as the wings are not employed in flying, the usual office of that bone is not wanted. The form of the pelvis is different from the ordinary structure; for the pubic bones, which in all other birds are separated by an interval, here unite as they do in quadrupeds.

The feathers are unprovided with that elaborate apparatus of crotchets and fibres, which are universally met with in birds that fly. The filaments of the ostrich's feathers, in consequence of having none of these fibrils, hang loose and detached from one another, forming the fine hair or down, which, however ornamental as an article of dress, must be viewed, when considered physiologically, as a species of degeneracy in the structure of feathers.

The Penguin, in like manner, has a wing, which is, by its shortness, totally unfitted for raising the body in the air: it has, indeed, received a very different destination, being formed for swimming. In external form, it resembles the anterior extremity of the turtle; but, still, we find it constructed on the model of the wings of birds; as if nature had bound herself, by a law, not to depart from the standard of organization, although the purpose of the structure is altogether changed. As penguins are intended for a maritime