

bubbles. The lungs of serpents have scarcely any of these partitions, but consist of one simple pulmonary sac, situated on the right side, having the slender elongated form of all the other viscera, and extending nearly the whole length of the body. The lung on the left side is in general scarcely discernible, being very imperfectly developed. In the chameleon the lungs have numerous processes which project from them like cæca. In the Sauria, the lungs are more confined to the thoracic region, and are more completely cellular.

The mechanism, by which, in these animals, the air is forced into the lungs, is exceedingly peculiar, and was for a long time a subject of controversy. If we take a frog as an example, and watch its respiration, we cannot readily discover that it breathes at all, for it never opens its mouth to receive air, and there is no motion of the sides to indicate that it respire; and yet, on any sudden alarm, we see the animal blowing itself up, as if by some internal power, though its mouth all the while continues to be closed. We may perceive, however, that its throat is in frequent motion, as if the frog were economizing its mouthful of air, and transferring it backwards and forwards between its mouth and lungs; but if we direct our attention to the nostrils, we may observe in them a twirling motion, at each movement of the jaws; for it is, in fact, through the nostrils that the frog receives all the air which it breathes. The jaws are never opened but for eating, and the sides of the mouth form a sort of bellows, of which the nostrils are the inlets; and by their alternate contraction and relaxation the air is swallowed, and forced into the trachea, so as to inflate the lungs. If the mouth of a frog be forcibly kept open, it can no longer breathe, because it is deprived of the power of swallowing the air required for that function; and if its nostrils be closed, it is, in like manner, suffocated. The respiration of most of the Reptile tribes is performed in a similar manner; and they may be said rather to swallow the air they breathe, than to draw it in by any expansive action