

as well as its safety, chiefly by means of artifice and concealment.

*Ribs.**

The ribs are composed of two parts, one vertebral and one ventral; the ventral portions of one side, (Pl. 18, 3, b,) uniting with those on the opposite side by an intermediate transverse bone, (a, c,) so that each pair of ribs encircled the body with a complete belt, made up of five parts.† Cuvier observes that the similarity of this structure to that of the ribs of Cameleons and two species of Iguana, (*Lacerta Marmorata*, Lin. and *Anolius*, Cuvier,) seems to show that the lungs of the *Plesiosaurus Dolichodeirus*, (as in these three sub-genera of living Saurians,) were very large; and *possibly* that the colour of its skin also was changeable, by the varied intensity of its inspirations.‡ *Oss. Foss. Vol. V. Pt. 2. p. 280.*

* See Pl. 16, 17, 18.

† The ventral portion of each rib, (Pl. 17, and Pl. 18, 3, b,) appears to have been composed of three slender bones fitted to one another by oblique grooves, allowing of great expansive movement during the inflation of the lungs: the manner in which these triple bones were folded over one another, is best seen in a single series between a, and b, the upper ends of the ventral portions of the ribs (b) have been separated by pressure, from the lower ends of the vertebral portions. (d.)

‡ We have no means to verify this ingenious conjecture, that the *Plesiosaurus* may have been a kind of *sub-marine* Cameleon,