

in a fossil state ; namely, the teeth, jaws, vertebræ, &c. ; and the osseous appendages of the dermal system.

It will, perhaps, be useful to premise, that the animals comprehended in the class of Reptiles, may, in a very general sense, be said to constitute four principal divisions ; namely—

The *Chelonians*, or Tortoises ; which have a heart with two auricles ; the body supported by four feet or paddles, and enveloped in two osseous bucklers, composed of the expanded bones of the sternum and thorax.

The *Saurians*, or Lizards ; having a heart with two auricles ; the body supported by four or two feet, and covered with scales.

The *Ophidians*, or Serpents ; the heart with two auricles, and the body destitute of feet.

The *Batrachians*, or Frog-tribe ; the heart with one auricle ; the body naked, with only rudimentary ribs ; and with two or four feet. Most of these reptiles breathe by branchiæ or gills in their young state, and by lungs in the adult (as for example the Frog) ; in some (the *perenni-branchiata*), the branchiæ are persistent through life.

TEETH OF REPTILES.—The teeth of the animals of this class exhibit considerable diversity of form, but the characteristic type is that of a conical, pointed tooth, with a simple root or fang ; for, *in no reptile does the base of the tooth terminate in more than one fang, and this is never branched.* “ Any fossil, therefore, which exhibits a tooth implanted by two fangs in a double socket, must be mammiferous, since the socketed teeth of reptiles have but a single