

bræ. In some reptiles the ribs are flat and broad. The locomotive extremities in reptiles are variously constructed according to the adaptation of the animals to a terrestrial, fluviatile, or marine existence. The bones of the limbs in the extinct colossal terrestrial species, closely resemble those of our large pachydermata, the Rhinoceros and Hippopotamus (see *Lign.* 143.). The cylindrical bones of the extremities in the Crocodilians, and other recent reptiles, are solid, *i. e.* have no cavity filled with marrow; but the thigh-bones and leg-bones of the Iguanodon, and other extinct land reptiles, have a medullary canal; this modification of structure renders the limbs better adapted for walking. Our limits will not admit of further osteological details; and we are compelled to omit the description of the bones composing the pectoral and thoracic arches.\*

DERMAL BONES. *Lign.* 140. In some of the reptile tribes, particularly of the Crocodilian or loricated (*mailed*) group, the external integument or skin contains numerous osseous *scutes*, or scutcheons, variously arranged, and which serve as supports to the integumental scales and spines. In the gigantic Gavial, that inhabits the Ganges, and other rivers of India, and which is remarkably distinguished from the common Crocodile and Alligator by its extremely slender muzzle, which is prolonged into a beak, the nape of the neck is

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\* See Brit. Assoc. Report, 1841.