

be more surprising if the fore feet of the *dog* also (Fig. 4), as well as the breast-fin (the hand) of the *seal* (Fig. 5), and of the *dolphin* (Fig. 6), show essentially the same structure. And it will appear still more wonderful that even the wing of the *bat* (Fig. 7), the shovel-feet of the *mole* (Fig. 8), and the fore feet of the *duck-bill* (*Ornithorhynchus*) (Fig. 9), the most imperfect of all mammals, is composed of entirely the same bones, only their size and form being variously changed. Their number, the manner of their arrangement and connection has remained the same. (Compare also the explanation of Plate IV., in the Appendix.) It is quite inconceivable that any other cause, except the common inheritance of the part in question from common ancestors, could have occasioned this wonderful homology or similarity in the essential inner structure with such different external forms. Now, if we go down further in the system below the mammals, and find that even the wings of birds, the fore feet of reptiles and amphibious animals, are composed of essentially the same bones as the arms of man and the fore legs of the other mammals, we can, from this circumstance alone, with perfect certainty, infer the common origin of all these vertebrate animals. Here, as in all other cases, the degree of the internal agreement in the form discloses to us the degree of blood relationship.