

find the number of joints regularly increased by the addition of one, as we proceed from the first finger, or thumb, which has two joints, to the third, in which there are four; this is precisely the numerical arrangement which takes place in the three first fingers of the hand of the Pterodactyle; (Pl. 22, c. d. e. n. o. Figs. 30—38.) thus far the three first fingers of the fossil reptile agree in structure with those of the fore-foot of living Lizards; but as the hand of the Pterodactyle was to be converted into an organ of flight, the joints of the fourth, or fifth finger were lengthened, to become expanders of a membranous wing.\*

\* Thus in the *P. Longirostris* (Pl. 21, 39—42.) and *P. Brevisrostris*, (Pl. 22, Fig. O, 39—42,) the fourth finger is stated by Cuvier to have four elongated joints, and the fifth or unguis joint to be omitted, as its presence is unnecessary. In the *P. Crassirostris*, according to Goldfuss (Pl. 22, Figs. A, N,) this claw is present upon the fourth finger, (43) which thus has five bones, and the fifth finger is elongated to carry the wing. Throughout all these arrangements in the fore-foot, the normal numbers of the type of Lizards are maintained.

If, as appears from the specimen engraved by Goldfuss, of *P. Crassirostris*, (Pl. 22, N, 44, 45,) the fifth finger was elongated to expand the wing, we should infer from the normal number of joints in the fifth finger of Lizards being only three, that this wing finger had but three joints. In the fossil itself the two first joints only are preserved, so that his conjectural addition of a fourth joint to the fifth finger, in the restored figure, (Pl. 22, A, 47,) seems inconsistent with the analogies, that pervade the structure of this, and of every other species of Pterodactyle, as described by Cuvier.