communicate with a poison vesicle, the spider despatches the insects struggling in his toils, which otherwise he could not so easily master, and having sucked out their juices casts away the carcass. The fang, by folding upon the apex of the basal joint of the organ we are considering, which is toothed on each side, and has a channel to receive it when unemployed, can be formed into a forceps, resembling that which arms the anterior thoracic leg of the shrimp, or that of the mantis, and which is probably, in some circumstances, used for prehension.

The subject of *poison-fangs* affords a striking example of the adaptation and modification of different parts and organs to the discharge of the same or similar functions, according to the circumstances in which an animal is placed; the viper, the centipede, and the spider, have their sting in their *mouth*, or in its vicinity; the scorpion and the bee, and wasp, have it at the *other extremity* of the body; while the male of the *Ornithorhynchus*, or Duck-bill, and *Echidna*, or New Holland Porcupine, have it in their *hind legs*. Considering the evident affinity between these last animals and the *birds*, their poison-spur seems evidently analogous to the spur that distinguishes the males of many gallinaceous birds; and, reasoning from analogy, we may conclude that this organ is given to the males of the *Monotremes*, as a weapon to be used in their mutual combats.

Whoever examines the underside of a spider will find the feelers and the eight legs arranged nearly in a circle, with their first hip-joints parallel; with some this joint in the feelers is dilated, but in others it is of the same shape with the analogous joint of the legs, only a little longer. It forms the *maxilla* or under-jaw, and between the first pair is the under-lip. The function of the maxillæ is to assist the, so-called, mandibles, in pressing out the juices of the flies and other insects submitted to their action, and the