

A similar idea would perhaps occur to us the first time we saw a *jerboa*,* or a *kanguroo*.† Hasselquist says of the former—that it might be described as having the head of a hare, the whiskers of a squirrel, the snout of a hog, the body, ears, and fore-legs of a mouse, hind-legs like those of a bird, with the tail of a lion; and an ancient zoologist would have made a monster of it that might have rivalled the chimæra. The kanguroo also would have met with a similar fate. Though the jerboa is not a marsupian animal like the kanguroo, yet they have many characters in common. They both have very slender fore-quarters, and short and slender fore-legs; their hind quarters, on the contrary, are remarkably robust and incrassated, and they sit erect, resting upon them like a hare; both have a long powerful tail, which they use as a fifth leg. The object of this formation, at the first glance, so at variance with all ideas of symmetry, appears to be a swifter change of place, and more ready escape from annoyance or violence. The jerboa is stated to take very long leaps, and those of the *kanguroo* are said to extend from twenty to twenty-eight feet, and they rise to an elevation of from six to eight feet. When they leap they keep their short fore-leg pressed close to their breast, and their long and robust tail, having first assisted them in their leap, is extended in a right line. A double end is answered by their peculiar structure; sitting on their haunches, they can leisurely look around them, and if they spy any cause of alarm, make off by the means just stated. Their attenuated fore-quarters and short fore-legs rendering it much more easy for them, overstepping every obstacle, to dart into the air; their centre of gravity is then removed nearer the hind quarters, so that the tail can act as a counterpoise to the anterior part of the body.

The *jerboa* also, like the kanguroo, when alarmed, springs

* *Dipus*.

† *Macropus*.