URINE, a ſerous and ſaline fluid; ſeparated from the blood, and carried by the emulgent arteries to the kidneys, from whence it deſcends to the bladder by the ureters, and is from time to time emitted thence by the canal of the urethra. See Anatomy, n⁰ 107. For the analysis of urine, ſee Chemistry.

URN, a kind of vaſe, of a roundiſh form, but biggeſt in the middle, like the common pitchers, now ſeldom uſed but in the way of ornament over chimney-pieces, in buffets, &c. The great uſe of urns among the ancients, was to preſerve the aſhes of the dead after they were burnt ; for which reaſon they were called *cineraria,* and *urnae cineraria,* and were placed ſometimes under the tombstone. whereon the epitaph was cut ; and ſometimes in vaults in their own houſes. Urns were alſo uſed at their ſacrifices to put liquid things in.

UROGALLUS, in ornithology. See Tetrao.

URSA, in astronomy, the name of two constellations in the northern hemiſphere.

URSULINES, is church hiſtory, an order of nuns, founded originally by St Angela of Breſcia, in the year 3537 ; and ſo called from St Urſula, to whom they were dedicated.

URSUS, the bear ; a genus of quadrupeds belonging to the order of *ferae.* There are six ſore-teeth in the upper jaw, alternately hollow in the inside, and six in the under jaw, the two lateral ones being lobated. The dog-teeth are ſolitary and conical ; the eyes are furnished with a nic­titating membrane ; the noſe is prominent ; and there is a crooked bone in the penis. There are eight ſpecies ; the principal of which are,

1. *Arctos,* the black bear, has ſtrong, thick, and clumſy limbs ; very ſhort tail ; large feet ; body covered with very long and ſhaggy hair, various in its colour: the largeſt are of a ruſty brown ;. the ſmalleſt of a deep black : ſome from the confines of Ruſſia black, mixed with white hairs, called by the Germans, silv*er bear ;* and ſome (but rarely) are found in Tartary of a pure white. It inhabits the north parts of Europe and Asia ; the Alps of Switzerland, and Dauphine ; Japan and Ceylon ; North America and Peru. The brown bears are ſometimes carnivorous, and will deſtroy cattle, and eat carrion ; but their general food is roots, fruits, and vegetables: they will robe the fields of peaſe ; and when they are ripe, pluck great quantities up, beat the peaſe out of the huſks on ſome hard place, eat them, and carry off the ſtraw : they will alſo, during win­ter, break into the farmer’s yard, and make great havock among his stock of oats ; they are alſo particularly fond of honey. The fleſh of a bear in autumn, when they are exceſſively fat, by feeding on acorns, and other mast, is de­licate food ; and that of the cubs ſtill finer ; but the paws of the old bears are reckoned the moſt exquisite morſel ; the fat white, and very ſweet ; the oil excellent for strains and old pains. The latter end of autumn, after they have fattened themſelves to the greateſt degree, the bears with­draw to their dens, where they continue for a great number of days in total inactivity and abstinence from food, having no other nouriſhment than what they get by ſucking their feet, where the fat lodges in great abundance ; their retreats are either in cliffs of rocks, in the deepeſt recesses of the thickeſt woods, or in the hollows of ancient trees, which they aſcend and deſcend with ſurprising agility : as they lay in no winter-provisions, they are in a certain ſpace of time forced from their retreats by hunger, and come out extremely lean : multitudes are killed annually in America, for the ſake or their fleſh or ſkin ; which laſt makes a conſiderable article of commerce.

2. *Maritimus,* the polar or white bear, has a long head and neck ; ſhort round ears; great teeth; the hair long, ſoft, and white, tinged in ſome parts with yellow : growing to a vaſt size ; the ſkins of ſome being 13 feet long. See Plate DX. fig. 3.

This animal is confined to the coldeſt part of the globe ; it has been found as far as navigators have penetrated north­wards, above lat. 80. The frigid climes only ſeem adapted to its nature ; for we do not learn from any authority that it is met with farther ſouth than Newfoundland. Its bounds in reſpect to longitude are alſo very limited ; being an animal unknown except on the ſhores of Hudſon’s Bay, Greenland, and Spitzbergen, on one side, and thoſe of Nova Zembla on the other ; for ſuch as have appeared in other parts have been hrought there involuntarily on floating iſlands of ice ; ſo that the intermediate countries of Norway and Iceland are acquainted with them but by accident. We cannot trace them farther eaſt than Nova Zembla ; though the frozen ſea, that is continued from thence as far as the land of Tſchukſchi, that lies above Kamtſchatka, is equally ſuited to their nature. The late hiſtories of thoſe countries are silent in reſpect to them.

During ſummer, the white bears are either reſident on iſlands of ice, or paſſing from one to another : they ſwim admirably, and can continue that exercise six or ſeven leagues, and dive with great agility. They bring two young at a time : the affection between the parents and them is ſo ſtrong, that they would die rather than deſert one another. Their winter retreats are under the ſnow, in which they form deep dens, ſupported by pillars of the ſame. They feed on fiſh, ſeals, and the carcaſes of whales, and on human bodies, which they will greedily tear up; they ſeem very fond of human blood ; and are ſo fearleſs as to attack companies of armed men, and even to board ſmall veſſels. When on land, they live on birds and their eggs ; and allured by the ſcent of ſeals fleſh, often break into and plunder the houſes of the Greenlanders : their greateſt enemy in the brute creation is the morse, with whom they have terrible conflicts, but are generally worſted, the vaſt teeth of the former giving it a ſuperiority. The fleſh is white, and ſaid to taſte like mutton : the fat is melted for train-oil, and that of the feet uſed in medicine : but the liver is very unwholeſome, as three of Barentz’s ſailors experienced, who fell dangerously ill on eating ſome of it boiled. One of this ſpecies was brought over to England a few years ago ; it was very furious, almoſt always in motion, roared loud, and ſeemed very uneaſy, except when cooled by having pailfulls of water poured on it.

3. The *luſcus,* or wolverene, has a black ſharp pointed viſage ; ſhort rounded ears, almoſt hid in the hairs ; the sides of a yellowiſh brown, which passes in form of a band quite over the hind-part of the back, above the tail ; the legs are very ſtrong, thick and ſhort, of a deep black : the whole body is covered with very long and thick hair, which varies in colour according to the ſeaſon. It inhabits Hud­ſon’s Bay and Canada, as far as the straits of Michilimakinac ; is found under the name of the *glutton* in the north parts of Europe and Asia, being a native of the moſt rigo­rous climates,

It is a moſt voracious animal, and slow of foot ; ſo is obliged to take its prey by ſurpriſe. In America it is called the *beaver-eater,* watching thoſe animals as they come out of their houſes, and ſometimes breaking into their habitations, and devouring them. It often lurks on trees, and falls on the quadrupeds that paſs under ; will fatten on the horſe, elk, or ſtag, and continue eating a hole into its body, till the animal falls down with the pain; or else will tear out its eyes : no force can diſengage it ; yet ſometimes the deer in their agony have been known to deſtroy it, by running