

back serves for a foundation to the fabric of the body ; and it is from the marrow which it contains that the motion and action of most of the members and organs proceed ; it is also this part which appears one of the first in the embryo. Now these simple parts which appear the first are all essential to the existence and form of the animal. There are many more double than simple parts in the body of an animal, and seem to be produced on each side of the simple parts by a kind of vegetation ; for these double parts are similar in form, and different in position. The left hand exactly resembles the right, because it is composed of the same number of parts ; nevertheless, if it was placed in the situation of the right, we could not make use of it for the same purposes, and should have reason to regard it as a very different member. It is the same with respect to the other double parts ; they are similar as to form, and different as to the position which is connected to the body of the animal ; and by supposing a line to divide the body into two equal parts, the position of all the similar parts would refer to this line as a centre.

The spinal marrow, and the vertebræ which contains it, appear to be the real axis, to which