

and corresponding formation of the vertebræ, of the teeth, &c. But I doubt whether any one would have guessed, if observation had not suggested it, that ruminating animals would all have cloven feet, and that they alone would have them: I doubt whether any one would have guessed that those only would have horns on the forehead that belong to this class; that those amongst them who have sharp eye-teeth are for the greatest part deficient in horns, &c.

However, since these coincidences are constant, they must have a satisfactory cause; but as we do not know it, we ought to supply the defect of the theory by observation; it serves us to establish suppositious laws, which become almost as certain as the laws of reasoning, when they rest on often-repeated observations; so that now, any one who sees the track of a cleft foot may conclude that the animal who left it is ruminant; and this assertion is as sure as any other in physics or morality. This foot-mark alone gives to the observer both the formation of the teeth, the shape of the jaws, the structure of the vertebræ, and the form of all bones of the legs, thighs, shoulders, and even the frame of the animal which has passed. It is a more certain mark than all those of Zadig.

Whatever secret reasonings there may be in these relations, it is observation which has elicited them, independently of general philosophy.

In fact, when we make an assemblage of these facts, we remark not only a specific consistency, if we may use such a term, between a certain formation of a certain organ, and a certain formation of a different organ; but we perceive also a classified consistency, and a correspondent gradation in the development of these two organs, which evince, al-