

tation, but while the one evolved from the extremities blossoms which shrunk not under external irritations and were therefore properly flowers,—the other put forth flowers which, because they exhibited every sign of animality, were therefore with reason considered animals. “Zoophyta,” he writes to Ellis, “are constructed very differently, living by a mere vegetable life, and are increased every year under their bark, like trees, as appears from the annual rings in a section of the trunk of a Gorgonia. They are therefore vegetables, with flowers like small animals, which you have most beautifully delineated. All submarine plants are nourished by pores, not by roots, as we learn from Fuci. As zoophytes are, many of them, covered with a stony coat, the Creator has been pleased that they should receive nourishment by their naked flowers. He has therefore furnished each with a pore, which we call a mouth. All living beings enjoy some motion. The zoophytes mostly live in the perfectly undisturbed abyss of the ocean. They cannot therefore partake of that motion, which trees and herbs receive from the agitation of the air. Hence the Creator has granted them a nervous system, that they may spontaneously move at pleasure. Their lower part becomes hardened and dead, like the solid wood of a tree. The surface, under the bark, is every year furnished with a new living layer, as in the vegetable kingdom. Thus they grow and increase; and may even be truly called vegetables, as having flowers, producing capsules, &c. Yet as they are endowed with sensation, and voluntary motion, they must be called, as they are, animals; for animals differ from plants merely in having a sentient nervous system, with voluntary motion; nor are there any other limits between the two. Those therefore who esteem these animalcules to be distinct from their stalk, in my opinion, founded on observation, deceive and are deceived.”*

There was something in this hypothesis peculiarly captivating to an imaginative mind, and few poets have possessed a richer fancy than Linnæus. He seems to have ever fondly cherished the opinion, for in his curious Diary, in which he has enumerated with much complacency all his works and merits, it is mentioned as one of his principal recommendations to the respect

* Lin. Corresp. Vol. i. p. 151-2.