

ing that they have no animal structure or individual organs, and exhibit no one function usually supposed to be characteristic of that kingdom. Like vegetables they are permanently fixed,—like vegetables they are non-irritable,—their movements, like those of vegetables, are extrinsical and involuntary,—their nutriment is elaborated in no appropriated digestive sac—and like cryptogamous vegetables or algæ they usually grow and ramify in forms determined by local circumstances, and if they present some peculiarities in the mode of the imbibition of their food and in their secretions, yet even in these they evince a nearer affinity to plants than to any animal whatever.