

left to infer from analogy, that, since sensation depends on the presence of nerves, and the smallest animals evidently possess sensation, a nervous system exists in the minutest monad of animal organization.

In the largest and most perfect examples of the vegetable kingdom, no traces of nerves are perceptible, nor of any substance which can be considered as at all analogous in structure or function: it is therefore concluded, that as vegetables are destitute of nerves, they are likewise wanting in that faculty which in animals we term sensation.

But the nerves not only bestow feeling, they also confer the power of voluntary motion; and, if the construction of the organs to which such nerves proceed be suitable, they enable the animal to effect progression, or in other words, give it the faculty of changing its situation from one place to another. As we descend in the scale of creation, we find many animals destitute of that power, and living on the same spot from the commencement to the termination of their existence; and all these animals are inhabitants of the water.

Such, then, are the essential characters of animal existence—an external determinate form, gradually developed, with an internal organization possessing circulating vessels for effecting nutrition and support, and capable of attracting and assimilating particles of inorganic matter; combined with a nervous system communicating sensation and