

voluntary motion ; a certain term of existence being assigned to determinate forms—in other words, a period of life and death.

5. DIVERSITY OF ANIMAL FORMS.—The form is as varied in figure and magnitude as the imagination can conceive ; from the god-like image of man, to the shapeless mass of jelly that floats upon the wave—from the elephant and the whale, to the insect and the animalcule, of which five hundred millions may be contained in a drop of water. In fact, so numerous and dissimilar both in form and structure are the animal organisms that exist on the earth, that the opinion of astronomers that the inhabitants of the worlds around us, must, from the different densities and conditions of the respective planets, be totally distinct and unlike any that are known to us, cannot be considered as incredible or marvellous. But of all the shapes in which animal existence presents itself on our globe, none are more extraordinary, or unlike what is commonly conceived of living beings, than those compound creatures which are described by naturalists under the name of *zoophytes*, or animal-plants, and familiarly known in their varied forms by the names of corals, madrepores, sponges, sea-anemones, dead men's fingers, sea-fans, &c.

6. ELLIS'S DISCOVERIES.—It was in this town (Brighton), in the year 1752, that Ellis first ascertained the animal nature of several of the small zoophytes which abound on our shores. It appears