limbs and all its organs display the most perfect adaptation.* It can suspend itself from a bough, which it clasps with all its four legs, and while thus hung in mid air, under the branch, can most composedly enjoy its leafy repast. When change of place is needed, it can pass from tree to tree, and pursue its branched-way through the forest with the greatest nimbleness and agility. Every one who has visited tropical regions, has been struck with the singular and beautiful appearance of parasitical plants grow-

* The mechanism of the claws of two tribes of animals presents very interesting matter for reflection. In the carnivorous feline, the claws are only occasionally used, and not to impede motion, they are retracted and drawn up, and of this every one has a familiar and domestic example in the claws of the cat. In the cat, the claws are held retracted by elastic ligaments, that is, by a mere physical not a vital force, consequently without fatigue or any effort of will on the part of the animal. On the other hand, the erection of the claws, and their employment in seizing and tearing, is a voluntary process, performed by muscular force, which is liable to fatigue. If from the cat tribe we turn to the sloths; we find the arrangement inverted. In the sloth the claws are usually employed in grasping, and hence they are retained in that state by an elastic ligament, that is, a physical power, not vital. On the contrary, they are retracted by a muscular force, because this is rarely required in an animal whose whole life is spent in embracing the branches of trees. S.