

most classes should be characterized, and what is their respective standing; since every day brings dissenting views, respecting the details of classification, nearer together, the supposition that all animals constitute one continuous gradated series, can be shown to be contrary to nature. Yet the greatest difficulty in this inquiry, is to weigh rightly the respective standing of the four great branches of the whole animal kingdom; for, however plain the inferiority of the Radiata may seem, when compared with the bulk of the Mollusks or Articulata, or still more evident when contrasted with the Vertebrata, it must not be forgotten, that the structure of most Echinoderms is far more complicated than that of any Bryozoon or Ascidian of the type of Mollusks, or that of any Helminth, of the type of Articulata, and, perhaps, even superior to that of the Amphioxus among Vertebrata. These facts are so well ascertained, that an absolute superiority or inferiority of one type over the other must be unconditionally denied. As to a relative superiority or inferiority however, determined by the bulk of evidence, though it must be conceded that the Vertebrata rank above the three other types, the question of the relative standing of Mollusks and Articulata seems rather to rest upon a difference in the tendency of their whole organization, than upon a real gradation in their structure; concentration being the prominent trait of the structure of Mollusks, while the expression 'outward display' would more naturally indicate that of Articulata, and so it might seem as if Mollusks and Articulata were standing on nearly a level with one another, and as much

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