

The classification with which Owen¹ introduces his "Lectures on Comparative Anatomy" is very instructive, as showing, more distinctly than other modern systems, the unfortunate ascendancy which the consideration of the complication of structure has gained of late over the idea of plan. His provinces, it is true, correspond in the main to the branches of Cuvier, with this marked difference, however, that he does not recognize a distinct province of Radiata coequal with those of Mollusca, Articulata, and Vertebrata, but only admits Radiaria as a subprovince on a level with Entozoa and Infusoria. Here, the idea of simplicity of structure evidently prevails over that of plan, as the subprovinces Radiaria, Entozoa, and Infusoria embrace, besides true Radiata, the lowest types of two other branches, Mollusks and Articulates. On the other hand, his three subprovinces correspond to the first three types of von Siebold; the Infusoria² of Owen embracing the same animals as the Protozoa of Siebold, his Entozoa³ the same as the Vermes, and his Radiaria the same as the Zoophyta, with the single exception that Owen refers the Anellata to the province of Articulata, whilst Siebold includes them among his Vermes. Beyond this the types of Mollusca and Articulata (Arthropoda) of the two distinguished anatomists entirely agree. The position assigned by Owen to the provinces Articulata and Mollusca, not one above the other, but side by side with one another,⁴ is no doubt meant to express his conviction, that the complication of structure of these two types does not justify the idea that either of them stands higher or lower than the other; and this is perfectly correct.

Several groups, established by previous writers as families or orders, are here admitted as classes. His class EPIZOA, which is not to be confounded with that established by Nitzsch under the same name, corresponds exactly to the family called LERNÆES by Cuvier. His class HYDROZOA answers to the order HYDROMA of Johnston, and is identical with the class called DIMORPHÆA by Ehrenberg. His class CŒLELMINTHA corresponds to the order of INTESTINAUX CAVITAIRES established

¹ I have given precedence to the classification of Owen over those of von Siebold and Stannius, Milne-Edwards, Leuckart, etc., because the first edition of the "Lectures on Comparative Anatomy" was published in 1843; but in estimating its features, as expressed in the preceding diagram, it should be borne in mind that, in the first edition, the classes alone are considered, and that the orders and families were only added to the second edition in 1855. I mention this simply to prevent the possibility of being understood as ascribing to Owen all those subdivisions of the classes, which he admits, and which do not appear in the systems considered before his.

² The Rhizopoda are considered as a group coequal to Rotifera and Polygastrin, on p. 16 of the "Lectures," but on p. 59, they stand as a suborder of Polygastrin.

³ The Turbellaria are represented as an independent group, on p. 16, and referred as a suborder to the Trematoda, on p. 118.

⁴ From want of room, I have been compelled, in reproducing the classification of Owen in the preceding diagram, to place his provinces Articulata and Mollusca one below the other upon my page; according to his views, they should stand on a level, side by side with one another.