

I need not repeat here what I have already stated, in the first section, respecting the primary divisions adopted by Siebold and Leuckart. As to the classes, I may add that his three classes of Echinoderms exhibit only ordinal characters. Besides Birds and Cephalopods, there is not another class so well defined, and so little susceptible of being subdivided into minor divisions presenting any thing like class characters, as that of Echinoderms. Their systems of organs are so closely homological, (compare p. 183,) that the attempt here made by Leuckart, of subdividing them into three classes, can readily be shown to rest only upon the admission, as classes, of groups which exhibit only ordinal characters, namely, different degrees of complication of structure. With reference to the classes of Worms, the same is equally true, as shown above. The arrangement of these animals proposed by Burmeister is certainly more correct than those of von Siebold and of Leuckart, inasmuch as he refers already correctly the Rotifera to the class of Crustacea, and does not, like Leuckart, associate the Bryozoa with the Worms. I agree, however, with Leuckart respecting the propriety of removing the Nemertini and Hirudinei from among the true Annelides. Again, Burmeister appreciates also more correctly the position of the whole type of Worms, in referring them, with de Blainville, to the branch of Articulata.

The common fault of all the anatomical classifications which have been proposed since Cuvier consists, first, in having given up, to a greater or less extent, the fundamental idea of the plan of structure, so beautifully brought forward by Cuvier, and upon which he has insisted with increased confidence and more and more distinct consciousness, ever since 1812; and, second, in having allowed that of complication of structure frequently to take the precedence over the more general features of plan, which, to be correctly appreciated, require, it is true, a deeper insight into the structure of the whole animal kingdom than is needed merely for the investigation of anatomical characters in single types.

Yet, if we take a retrospective glance at these systems, and especially consider the most recent ones, it must be apparent to those who are conversant with the views now obtaining in our science, that, after a test of half a century, the idea of the existence of branches, characterized by different plans of structure, as expressing the true relations among animals, has prevailed over the idea of a graduated scale including all animals in one progressive series. When it is considered that this has taken place amidst the most conflicting views respecting classification, and even in the absence of any ruling principle, it must be acknowledged that this can be only owing to the internal truth of the views first propounded by Cuvier. We recognize in the classifications of Siebold, Leuckart, and others the triumph of the great conception of the French naturalist, even though their systems differ greatly from his, for the question whether there are four or