

entially to our happiness, but which it would be quite inexcusable to neglect. This general view of Zoölogy, it is the purpose of this work to afford.

11. A sketch of this nature should render prominent the more general features of animal life, and delineate the arrangement of the species according to their most natural relations and their rank in the scale of being; thus giving a panorama, as it were, of the entire Animal Kingdom. To accomplish this, we are at once involved in the question, What is it that gives an animal precedence in rank?

12. In one sense, all animals are equally perfect. Each species has its definite sphere of action, whether more or less extended, — its own peculiar office in the economy of nature; and a complete adaptation to fulfil all the purposes of its creation, beyond the possibility of improvement. In this sense, every animal is perfect. But there is a wide difference among them, in respect to their organization. In some it is very simple, and very limited in its operation; in others, extremely complicated, and capable of exercising a great variety of functions.

13. In this physiological point of view, an animal may be said to be more perfect in proportion as its relations with the external world are more varied; in other words, the more numerous its functions are. Thus, an animal, like a quadruped, or a bird, which has the five senses fully developed, and which has, moreover, the faculty of readily transporting itself from place to place, is more perfect than a snail, whose senses are very obtuse, and whose motion is very sluggish.

14. In like manner, each of the organs, when separately considered, is found to have every degree of complication, and, consequently, every degree of nicety in the performance of its function. Thus, the eye-spots of the star-fish and jelly-fish are probably endowed with merely the fac