

CHAPTER SECOND.

GENERAL PROPERTIES OF ORGANIZED BODIES

SECTION I.

ORGANIZED AND UNORGANIZED BODIES.

30. NATURAL HISTORY, in its broadest sense, embraces the study of all the bodies which compose the crust of the earth, or which are dispersed over its surface.

31. These bodies may be divided into two great groups; inorganic bodies, (minerals and rocks,) and living or organized bodies, (vegetables and animals.) These two groups have nothing in common, save the universal properties of matter, such as weight, extension, &c. They differ at the same time as to their form, their structure, their chemical composition, and their mode of existence.

32. The distinctive characteristic of inorganic bodies is *rest*; the distinctive trait of organized bodies is *independent motion*, LIFE. The rock or the crystal, once formed, never changes from internal causes; its constituent parts or molecules invariably preserve the position which they have once taken in respect to each other. Organized bodies, on the contrary, are continually in action. The sap circulates in