

the tree, the blood flows through the animal, and in both there is, besides, the incessant movement of growth, decomposition, and renovation.

33. Their mode of formation is also entirely different. Unorganized bodies are either simple or made up of elements unlike themselves; and when a mineral is enlarged, it is simply by the outward addition of particles constituted like itself. Organized bodies are not formed in this manner. They always, and necessarily, are derived from beings similar to themselves; and once formed, they always increase interstitially, by the successive assimilation of new particles, derived from various sources.

34. Finally, organized bodies are limited in their duration. Animals and plants are constantly losing some of their parts by decomposition during life, which at length cease to be supplied, and they die, after having lived for a longer or shorter period. Inorganic bodies, on the contrary, contain within themselves no principle of destruction; and unless subjected to some foreign influence, a crystal or a rock would never change. The limestone and granite of our mountains remain just as they were formed in ancient geological epochs; while numberless generations of plants and animals have lived and perished upon their surface.

SECTION II.

ELEMENTARY STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZED BODIES.

35. The exercise of the functions of life, which is the essential characteristic of organized bodies, (32,) requires a degree of flexibility of the organs. This is secured by means of a certain quantity of watery fluid, which pene-