

the vertebrate type, beginning with the fish, has developed into the reptile, the bird, the quadruped, and man.

Nor does method end here; nor the method which had its first announcement on the morning of animal existence. I have already alluded to the varied conditions under which animal life presents itself—the various ends with reference to which animals have been modified—some to swim, some to fly, some to climb, some to burrow; some for exalted powers and active habits, others for a degraded and sluggish existence. Each fundamental type has been moulded, and warped, and adapted to these varied ends and conditions of being. At the same time, the grand characteristics of the type have been conserved even in the extremest modifications. The modifications of the fundamental plan to adapt it to these various ends are class-characters; and we thus find that Nature has herself grouped the members of each branch into classes. This method is as old as the animal creation. Not only did each creature which played its part in the primordial fauna conform to one of the four fundamental types of structure, but it also conformed to the characteristics of one of the preconceived class-modifications of that type.

Lastly, each class-group is composed of different grades of animals, constituting so many different orders within the limits of the class. This gradation of ordinal types was also recognized in the organization of the earliest animals.

Thus the whole plan of creation was mapped out to the mind of the Creator in the beginning. We shall see, as we proceed with our sketches of the history of creation, that every step in the evolution of continents, and the establishment of a home for the coming man, was a movement in a definite direction, effected by forces chosen from the first, and shaped always with reference to exigencies which were to arise in the far-distant future. We shall see how