

the Mammalia ; and at the head of this class stands the order of Primates, in which Linnaeus, in 1735, united four 'genera'—Homo, Simia, Lemur, and Vespertilio. If we exclude the last-named, the Chiroptera of modern zoology, there remain three natural groups of Primates—the Lemures, the Simiæ, and the Anthropi or Hominidæ. This is the classifica-

---

organization. A fish or a snake is in its way more specialized than a mammal ; but specialization does not necessarily mean height of development : it generally means life in a comparatively narrow groove. The acts of giving birth and nourishing the young with the mother's milk is a much higher stage than the act of laying eggs and letting them run their chance. The development of a hairy coat goes along with heightened temperature of the blood, subsequent greater independence of the surrounding temperature, and increased steady activity of the brain and other nerve-centres. The brain of the Mammalia, in its minute structure, is much more complex. This rule applies to some of the principal sense organs, chiefly the nose and the ear. The skeleton, not so much as a whole as in the various bones and joints, is more neatly finished, and built up more in conformity with 'scientific principles,' than is the case even with birds, in spite of their marvellous specialization. The same is the case with the vascular system, notably the heart and the veins, and with the excretory organs. In all of these many imperfections, still to be found in the other classes, have been corrected in Mammalia. The Primates take an easy first by their hands, and among them the apes and man himself by their brains.