

“ toes are arranged in the same plane. <sup>h</sup>But, to  
 “ return to a point which we were just now con-  
 “ sidering, it is not merely necessary in laying  
 “ hold of minute objects to employ the extremi-  
 “ ties of the fingers opposed to each other, but  
 “ that those extremities should be exactly of  
 “ the character they are, namely soft, and round,  
 “ and furnished with nails : for if the tips of the  
 “ fingers were of bone, and not of flesh, we could  
 “ not then lay hold of such minute bodies as  
 “ thorns or hairs; or if they were of a softer and  
 “ moister substance than flesh, neither then could  
 “ such small bodies have been secured. For, in  
 “ order that a body may be firmly held, it is ne-  
 “ cessary that it be in some degree infolded in  
 “ the substance holding it; which condition  
 “ could not have been fulfilled by a hard or  
 “ bony material; and on the other hand, a mate-  
 “ rial too soft would easily yield to substances of  
 “ which it attempted to lay hold, and would con-  
 “ tinually let them escape : whereas the extre-  
 “ mities of the fingers are just of that interme-  
 “ diate degree of consistence, which is calculated  
 “ for their intended use.

“ <sup>i</sup>But, since tangible substances vary much  
 “ in their degree of hardness, nature has adapted  
 “ the structure of the extremities of the fingers  
 “ to that circumstance : for they are not formed  
 “ either entirely of flesh, or of the substance

<sup>h</sup> Lib. i. cap. 6.

<sup>i</sup> Lib. i. cap. 7.