

ous system at large of other animals ; it will be necessary to take such a survey of that system as may be sufficient for the present purpose.

In the lowest species of animals, which appear to be devoid of any specific organs of digestion, motion, or sensation ; whose economy indeed only enables them to contribute, in a mode as yet unknown, to the nutrition and preservation of the individual, or to the continuation of the species, no distinct nervous system has yet been discovered, or at least satisfactorily demonstrated : it is presumed rather than known that in such animals there exists a variable number of small insulated masses of nervous matter called *ganglions*, which are connected with each other, and with different parts of the body, by means of slender filaments that radiate from these masses in various directions.

In ascending the scale of animal existence we meet with species, in which, though devoid of organs of sense and motion, there exist distinct organs of digestion : and in such species the upper part of the passage leading from the mouth to the stomach is usually surrounded by a kind of collar, from whence distinct nerves are distributed to the other parts of the body.

In ascending still higher the scale of animal existence we find, together with a greater symmetry of structure in the whole individual, additional component parts of the nervous system,