

habit of considering things as produced accidentally, has induced some anatomists to believe that the cuticle is formed by the hardening of the true skin. The fact, however, that the cuticle is perfect in the new-born infant, and that even then it is thickest on the hands and feet, should have shewn that, like every thing in the animal structure, it participates in the great design.

The cuticle is the organ of touch in this respect, that it is the medium through which the external impression is conveyed to the nerves of touch; and the manner in which this is accomplished is not without interest. The extremities of the fingers exhibit all the provisions for the exercise of this sense. The nails give support to the fingers; they are made broad and shield-like,\* in order to sustain the elastic cushion which forms their extremity; and the fulness and elasticity of the ends of the fingers adapt them admirably for touch.

The cushion on the end of the finger is a very important part of the exterior apparatus. An ingenious gentleman has observed that we cannot feel the pulse at the wrist with the tongue. It is a very remarkable fact, and I apprehend the reason to be, not the insensibility of the tongue, but the soft texture of it. It is not fitted to convey the peculiar impulse, to which the firm and

\* *Unguis scutiformis.*