

pressure or weight; their elasticity to prevent concussion and fracture. In the animal body there is no accident occurring from disproportioned forces,—the active and resisting powers are finely balanced, no second trial is wanted to increase the power, or strengthen the levers, or add to the elasticity of the springs—it is at once perfect; perfect to its end. But to understand this fully, and the adaptations in the constitution of the bones, we must proceed a little deeper in our investigation.

Perfect security against accidents in the animal body, and in man especially, is not consistent with the scheme of nature. Without the precautions and the continued calls to exertion, which danger and the uncertainty of life produce, many of the faculties of the mind would remain unexercised. Whence else would come courage, resolution, and all the manly virtues? Take away the influence of the uncertain duration of life, and we must suppose also a change in the whole moral constitution of man. Whether we consider the bones as formed to protect important organs, as in the skull: or to be levers to which the muscles are attached, as in the limbs: or in both capacities, as in the texture of the chest: while they are perfectly adapted to their function, they are yet subject to derangements from accident. The mechanical adaptations are perfectly sufficient to their ends; and