

ber of Mollusca, are limited by the constitution of their system, to an aquatic existence. But in following the series of *Articulated* animals, we very soon emerge from the waters, and find structures adapted to progression on land. For this we see that preparation is early made in the development of the nascent structures. A farther design, also, soon becomes manifest; and instruments are given for elevating the body above the ground, and for traversing with rapidity the light and scarcely resisting atmosphere. This prospective design may be traced in the whole system of insects; every part of which is framed with reference to the properties of the medium through which these movements are to be performed.

§ 2. *Annelida.*

THE lowest division of articulated animals comprehends those which have a vermiform shape, and which compose the class of *Annelida*, or Annulose animals; of which the earth-worm may be taken as the type, and most familiar example. In the series of structures which constitute this division of the animal kingdom, we may trace remarkable gradations of development, through which nature appears to pass in attaining the higher and more perfect conformations.

It may be remarked that, in effecting the transition from Zoophytes to the new model of construction here presented, nature seems to have wholly abandoned that radiated disposition of parts, and those star-like forms, so characteristic of the beings which are placed on the confines of the animal kingdom, and which still retain an analogy with vegetable structures. She now adopts a more regular law of symmetry; by which all the parts are referrible to one longitudinal axis, and also to a vertical plane passing through that axis, and which has been termed the *mesial plane*. As a direct consequence of this law, we shall find that in the forms which are hereafter to pass under our review, as far as the external organs and general outline of the body are concerned, all that exists on one side is an exact counterpart, like a reflected image, of what is found on the other side.