sible medusa,* through endless tribes of mollusca, and of fishes, up to the huge Leviathan of the deep.

Even those portions of organic matter, which, in the course of decomposition, escape in the form of gases, and are widely diffused through the atmosphere, are not wholly lost for the uses of living nature: for, in course of time, they, also, as we have seen, re-enter into the vegetable system, resuming the solid form, and reappearing as organic products, destined again to run through the same never ending cycle of vicissitudes and transmutations.

The diffusion of animals over wide regions of the globe is a consequence of the necessity which prompts them to search for subsistence wherever food is to be met with. Thus while the vegetation of each different climate is regulated by the seasons, herbivorous animals are in the winter forced to migrate from the colder to the milder regions, where they may find the pasturage they require; and these migrations occasion corresponding movements among the predaceous tribes which subsist upon them. Thus are continual interchanges produced, contributing to colonize the earth, and extend its animal population over every habitable district. But in all these changes we may discern the ultimate relation they ever bear to the condition of the vegetable world, which is placed as an intermediate and necessary link between the mineral and the animal kingdoms. All those regions which are incapable of supporting an extensive vegetation, are, on that account, unfitted for the habitation of animals. Such are the vast continents of ice, which spread around the poles; such are the immense tracts of snow and of glaciers, which occupy the summits of the highest mountain chains; and such is the wide expanse of sand, which covers the largest portions both of Africa and

* The immensity of the numbers of these microscopic medusæ, which people every region of the ocean, may be judged of from the phenomenon of the phosphorescent light which is so frequently exhibited by the sea, when agitated, and which, as I have already observed, is found to arise from the presence of an incalculable multitude of these minute animals.