

nearly constant supply, and have no receptacle for collecting it at its immediate entry; the sap, as we have seen passing at once into the cellular tissue of the plant, where the process of its gradual elaboration is commenced. Animals, on the other hand, are capable of receiving at once large supplies of food, in consequence of having an internal cavity, adapted for the immediate reception of a considerable quantity. A vegetable may be said to belong to the spot from which it imbibes its nourishment, and the surrounding soil, into which its absorbing roots are spread on every side, may almost be considered as a part of its system. But an animal has all its organs of assimilation within itself, and having receptacles in which it can lay in a store of provisions, it may be said to be nourished from within; for it is from these interior receptacles that the lacteals, or absorbing vessels, corresponding in their office to the roots of vegetables, imbibe nourishment. Important consequences flow from this plan of structure; for since animals are thus enabled to subsist for a certain interval without needing any fresh supply, they are independent of local situation, and may enjoy the privilege of moving from place to place. Such a power of locomotion was, indeed, absolutely necessary to beings which have their subsistence to seek. It is this necessity, again, that calls for the continued exercise of their senses, intelligence, and more active energies; and that leads, in a word, to the possession of all those higher powers which raise them so far above the level of the vegetable creation.