

diameter. The African ostrich, on the other hand, which inhabits a country where the supply of food is very scanty, has the colon forty-five feet long; each of the cæca is two feet nine inches in length, and, at the widest part, three inches in diameter; in addition to which, there are broad valves in the interior of both these cavities.*

On comparing the structure of the digestive organs of Man with those of other animals belonging to the class Mammalia, we find them holding a place in the series intermediate between those of the purely carnivorous, and exclusively herbivorous tribes, and, in some measure, uniting the characters of both. The powers of the human stomach do not, indeed, extend to the digestion either of the tough woody fibres of vegetables, on the one hand, or the compact texture of bones on the other; but, still, they are competent to extract nourishment from a wider range of alimentary substances, than the digestive organs of almost any other animal. This adaptation to a greater variety of food may also be inferred from the form and disposition of the teeth, which combine those of different kinds more completely than in most mammalia, excepting, perhaps, the Quadrumana, in which, however, the teeth do not form, as in man, an uninterrupted series in both jaws. In addition to these peculiarities, we may also here observe, that the sense of taste, in the human species, appears to be effected by a greater variety of objects than in the other races of animals. All these are concurring indications that nature, in thus rendering man omnivorous, intended to qualify him for maintaining life wherever he could procure the materials of subsistence, whatever might be their nature, whether animal or vegetable, or a mixture of both, and in whatever soil or climate they may be produced; and for endowing him with the power of spreading his race, and extending his dominion

* Lectures, &c. I. 470. In the account above given of the digestive organs I have purposely omitted all mention of the spleen; because, although this organ is probably in some way related to digestion, the exact nature of its functions has not yet been determined with any certainty.