

development of elements, which existed in a latent form in the primeval germ, and which are evolved, in succession, as nature advances in her course. Thus, we find that each new form which arises, in following the ascending scale of creation, retains a strong affinity to that which had preceded it, and also tends to impress its own features on those which immediately succeed; and thus their specific differences result merely from the different extent and direction given to these organic developments; those of inferior races proceeding to a certain point only, and there stopping; while in beings of a higher rank they advance farther, and lead to all the observed diversities of conformation and endowments.

It is remarked, in farther corroboration of these views, that the animals which occupy the highest stations in each series possess, at the commencement of their existence, forms exhibiting a marked resemblance to those presented in the permanent condition of the lowest animals in the same series; and that, during the progress of their development, they assume, in succession, the characters of each tribe, corresponding to their consecutive order in the ascending chain; so that the peculiarities which distinguish the higher animal, on its attaining its ultimate and permanent form, are those which it has received in its last stage of embryonic evolution. Another consequence of this hypothesis is, that we may expect occasionally to meet, in inferior animals, with rudimental organs, which from their imperfect development may be of little or no use to the individual, but which become available to some superior species, in which they are sufficiently perfected. The following are among the most remarkable facts in illustration of these propositions.

In the series of Articulated Animals, of which the Annelida constitute the lowest, and winged Insects the highest terms, we find that the larvæ of the latter are often scarcely distinguishable, either in outward form, or in internal organization, from Vermes of the lower orders; both being equally destitute of, or but imperfectly provided with external instruments of locomotion; both having a distinct vas-