

It must, I think, be admitted that the analogies, on which the hypothesis in question is founded, are numerous and striking; but great care should be taken not to carry it farther than the just interpretation of the facts themselves may warrant. It should be borne in mind that these facts are few, compared with the entire history of animal development; and that the resemblances which have been so ingeniously traced, are partial only, and fall very short of that universality, which alone constitutes the solid basis of a strictly philosophical theory. Whatever may be the apparent similarity between one animal and another, during different periods of their respective developments, there still exist specific differences, establishing between them an impassable barrier of separation, and effectually preventing any conversion of one species into another, however nearly the two may be mutually allied. The essential characters of each species, amidst occasional varieties, remain ever constant and immutable. Although gradations, to a greater or less extent, may be traced among the races both of plants and animals, yet in no case is the series strictly continuous; each step, however short, being in reality an abrupt transition from one type of conformation to another. In many instances the interval is considerable; as, for example, in the passage from the invertebrate to the vertebrated classes; and, indeed, in every instance where great changes in the nature and arrangement of the functions take place.* It is in vain to allege that the original continuity of the series is indicated by a few species presenting, in some respects, intermediate characters, such as the *Ornythorhyncus*, between

feet development of some parts of the embryo, while the natural process is carried on in the rest of the system; and thus it happens that a resemblance may often be traced, in these malformations, with the type or the permanent condition of some inferior animal. Hence, all these apparent anomalies are, in reality, in perfect harmony with the established laws of organic development, and afford, indeed, striking confirmations of the truth of the theory here explained.

* See a paper on this subject, by Cuvier, in the *Ann. des Sciences Naturelles*, xx. 241.