

is the destined food of some peculiar insect, we may conjecture that the sense of smelling must, in them, be far more nice than in the higher animals, so as to enable them to distinguish from all others the appropriate nutriment of their own descendants. Where the parent, as is sometimes the case, feeds upon the same plant with the children, she requires no such guide, but with respect to the majority of insects, especially the infinite host of *Lepidoptera*,—which, after they arrive at their perfect state, never touch what forms their nutriment while they are larves,—some such guide is absolutely necessary.

β. Another Class of Insects relates to the different modes by which animals procure their *food*. Nothing affords a more striking proof of Creative Wisdom, and of the most wonderful adaptation of means to an end, than the diversities of structure with a view to this particular function. If we consider the infinite variety of substances, animal and vegetable, produced from the earth, which form the nutriment of its inhabitants—some solid and not easily penetrable; others soft and readily severed and comminuted; others again fluid, or semi-fluid;—we may conceive what a vast diversity of organs is necessary to effect this purpose. To render solid food of any kind fit for deglutition and digestion, the same mouth must be furnished with several kinds of teeth, some for incision, others for laceration, others again for grinding and mastication—while those that only absorb liquids merely require an organ adapted for suction, though often, at the same time, fitted to pierce the substance from which the nutritive fluid is to be derived. How various, also, must be the organs for swallowing and digesting the food according to its nature; others for elaborating it, and abstracting from it all those substances that are required by the several systems at work in the body, and conveying them to their proper stations;