

between animals and vegetables is not, therefore, general, nor well decided.

A third difference seems to arise from their method of feeding. Animals, by the means of certain external organs, seize those things which are agreeable to them : they seek their pasture and chuse their food. Plants are reduced to the necessity of receiving such nutriment as the earth furnishes : they have no diversity in the manner of procuring it ; no choice in the kind, but the humidity of the earth is their only aliment ; nevertheless, if we attend to the organization and action of roots and leaves, we shall presently discover that there are in those parts external organs, which vegetables make use of to obtain their food ; that the root avoids and turns from an obstacle, or vein of bad earth, to seek for one that is better ; that they divide their fibres, and even go so far as to change their form to procure nutriment for the plant. The difference between animals and vegetables cannot, therefore, be established on the manner in which they receive their nutriment.

This investigation induces us to conclude that there is no absolute essential and general
difference