the ear? of the bones, especially the vertebral column,— of the organs of digestion and assimilation, — of the muscles, and their mysterious power of contraction,— and above all, of the circulation of the blood, with the structure and functions of the heart and the lungs? Who knows not that his five senses depend chiefly upon distinct sets of nerves, all proceeding from one great centre, the brain, and yet incapable of performing the functions of one another? And who does not remember what thrilling impressions the first development of these subjects made upon him? how he trembled to hear his heart beat, and to feel his lungs heaving, and almost feared to move, lest the harp of thousand strings should be untuned?

But there is a department of these sciences, called *Comparative Anatomy and Physiology*, which has of late been cultivated with extraordinary success, and whose marvellous results are less known. I cannot, therefore, entirely neglect them.

When a man, not conversant with anatomy, looks upon the bones of an animal promiscuously mingled together, he does not perceive any striking harmony and relation between them. But a careful and extensive comparison reveals the astonishing fact, "that from the character of a single limb," (I use the words of an able comparative anatomist,) "and even of a single tooth, or bone, the form and proportion of the other bones, and the condition of the entire animal, may be inferred." "Hence, not only the framework of the fossil skeleton of an extinct animal, but also the character of the muscles, by which each bone was moved, the external form and figure of the body, the food, and habits, and haunts, and mode of life of creatures that ceased to exist before the creation of the human race, can, with a high degree of probability, be