

that ammonia formed an amalgam with mercury, was tempted to assign to it a metallic basis. But then he again hesitates,^b and doubts whether the analogies of our knowledge are not better preserved by supposing that ammonia, as a compound of hydrogen and another principle, is "a type of the composition of the metals."

Our history, which is the history of what we know, has little to do with such conjectures. There are, however, some not unimportant principles which bear upon them, and which, as they are usually employed, belong to the science which next comes under our review, Mineralogy.

^b *Elem. Chem. Phil.* 1812, p. 481.