

parts of our history, that not only labor but time, not only one man of genius but several, and those succeeding each other, are requisite to the formation of any considerable science.

But, in reality, the statements to which we refer, respecting the scientific character of Aristotle's Zoological system, are altogether without foundation; and this science confirms the lessons taught us by all the others. The misstatements respecting Aristotle's doctrines are on this account so important, and are so curious in themselves, that I must dwell upon them a little.

Aristotle's nine Books *On Animals* are a work enumerating the differences of animals in almost all conceivable respects;—in the organs of sense, of motion, of nutrition, the interior anatomy, the exterior covering, the manner of life, growth, generation, and many other circumstances. These differences are very philosophically estimated. "The corresponding parts of animals," he says,¹ "besides the differences of quality and circumstance, differ in being more or fewer, greater or smaller, and, speaking generally, in excess and defect. Thus some animals have crustaceous coverings, others hard shells; some have long beaks, some short; some have many wings, some have few; Some again have parts which others want, as crests and spurs." He then makes the following important remark: "Some animals have parts which correspond to those of others, not as being the same in species, nor by excess and defect, but by *analogy*; thus a claw is analogous to a thorn, and a nail to a hoof, and a hand to the nipper of a lobster, and a feather to a scale; for what a feather is in a bird, that is a scale in a fish."

It will not, however, be necessary, in order to understand Aristotle for our present purpose, that we should discuss his notion of Analogy. He proceeds to state his object,² which is, as we have said, to describe the differences of animals in their structure and habits. He then observes, that for structure, we may take Man for our type,³ as being best known to us; and the remainder of the first Book is occupied with a description of man's body, beginning from the head, and proceeding to the extremities.

In the next Book, (from which are taken the principal passages in which his modern commentators detect his system,) he proceeds to compare the differences of parts in different animals, according to the order which he had observed in man. In the first chapter he speaks

¹ Lib. i. c. i.

² Lib. i. c. ii.

³ c. iii.