

CHAPTER THIRD.

FUNCTIONS AND ORGANS OF ANIMAL LIFE.

SECTION I.

OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND GENERAL SENSATION.

59. LIFE, in animals, is manifested by two sorts of functions, viz.: First, the peculiar *functions of animal life*, or those of *relation*, which include the functions of sensation and voluntary motion; those which enable us to approach, and perceive our fellow beings and the objects about us, and to bring us into relation with them: Second, the *functions of vegetative life*, which are nutrition in its widest sense, and reproduction;* those indeed which are essential to the maintenance and perpetuation of life.

60. The two distinguishing characteristics of animals, namely, sensation and motion, (57,) depend upon special systems of organs, which are wanting in plants, the *nervous system* and the *muscular system* under its influence. The nervous system, therefore, is the grand characteristic of the animal body. It is the centre from which all the commands of the will issue, and to which all sensations tend.

* This distinction is the more important, inasmuch as the organs of animal life, and those of vegetative life, spring from very distinct layers of the embryonic membrane. The first are developed from the upper layer, and the second from the lower layer of the germ of the animal. See Chapter on Embryology, p. 112.