

CHAPTER FIFTH.

OF MOTION.

SECTION I.

APPARATUS OF MOTION.

148. THE power of voluntary motion is the second grand characteristic of animals, (57.) Though they may not all have the means of transporting themselves from place to place, there is no one which has not the power of executing some motions. The oyster, although fixed to the ground, opens and closes its shell at pleasure; and the little coral animal protrudes itself from its cell, and retires again at its will.

149. The movements of animals are effected by means of *muscles*, which are organs designed expressly for this purpose, and which make up that portion of the body which is commonly called *flesh*. They are composed of threads, which are readily seen in boiled meat. These threads are again composed of still more delicate fibres, called *muscular fibres*, (45,) which have the property of elongating and contracting.

150. The motions of animals and plants depend, therefore, upon causes essentially different. The expansion and closing of the leaves and blossoms of plants, which are their most