

CHAPTER XII.

OF ARRANGEMENT AND ORDER.

I.

It will hardly be doubted that the first mental instruction which a child receives is to observe definite things, which in the shape of toys or other articles are brought to his view by repeated movements, so as to attract his attention. This period of mere play is succeeded by other forms of instruction, among which the acquisition of speech is one of the most important, definite articles of use or play being named. Later on, a further important step is taken by putting things into special arrangements, thus introducing into the child's mind the idea of order.

Compared with the aspect which the surrounding world presents to the infant view, the new world of order and arrangement must be called artificial. But order and regularity between things and events is one of the first steps through which the human mind achieves its knowledge and mastery of these things and events. The principles underlying order and regularity in the artificial world are distinguished from the order of nature by repetition.

Though we speak of the Order of Nature, such order