

those which they already possess, human beings could not live in a state of society, could hardly indeed exist in any state, unless furnished with such an instrument as the hand.

## SECT. II.

*Differences in the Form of the Infant and of the Adult; particularly with reference to the Spine.*

AND yet, notwithstanding the confessed superiority of man, if we view him only in the infancy of his individual existence, what is there that is calculated to give an earnest of his future vigour and activity, either with respect to bodily or mental powers; and what are all the advantages of the external world to a creature so utterly helpless, so utterly incapable of using or even passively enjoying them? In fact, with the exception of a very few instinctive rather than voluntary acts, such as that of deriving its nutriment from the mother's breast, the infant is, from the feebleness of its powers, incapable of efficient exertion; and depends entirely on the assistance of those around it.

The physical differences, observable in comparing the structure of the infant with that of the adult, which enable the one to execute many operations of which the other is incapable, exist to a certain extent in every part of the body; but are perhaps more remarkable in the spine than in any other part: and the spine there-