

ing place by some process, as insensible as that which unites glue to wood; mortar to stone; or the colouring particles of the purple dye, to wool P.

The observations of Lucretius which relate to the mineral and vegetable kingdoms are too few, and of too general a nature, to justify even a cursory comparison of them with the present state of science in those departments: and though Pliny dedicates a considerable proportion of his Natural History both to minerals and vegetables, there is nothing sufficiently systematic in his method, or approximating to the present state of science, to be of any avail for that purpose. The same remark holds good even with respect to Theophrastus, not only in the case of minerals, but of vegetables also. The ancients had a glimpse indeed of the sexual system of Linnæus, with reference to the *palms*; but shew no tendency to a generalization of the observation.

### SECT. III.

#### *Opinions of the Ancients on the Organization and Classification of Animals.*

It appears from what has been said in the preceding section, that in mineralogy and botany we scarcely find among the ancients the slightest indications of those comprehensive systems, in the construction of which the last and