

and of moral feeling, are comparatively higher in the scale.

As instances of the equivocal character of those particular forms of organized matter to which Aristotle alludes, when speaking of the obscure boundary that separates animals from vegetables, *corallines* and substances of that kind may be adduced among animals; and, among vegetables, those green, and in appearance gelatinous *confervæ* which are found in abundance in stagnant ditches during the summer. And these, and similar examples, seem to shew that, after the lapse of more than twenty centuries, the difficulty of defining the boundary between animal and vegetable organization still exists; a difficulty which is fully admitted by the principal physiologists of the present day^u.

In examining, however, more particularly the preceding opinions of Aristotle, there is one which does not accurately agree with the present state of our knowledge: there is not, namely, that continuity of gradation which he expresses by the term *συνέχεια*^x. There is probably no

^u See Macleay's *Horæ Entomologicæ*, p. 191.

^x A modern parallel to this opinion may be found in the geological hypothesis that the simplest forms of animal life occur only in the older strata; more and more complicated forms appearing in the more recent formations. The progress of geology has shewn that this is not really the case. See Prof. Sedgwick's *Address to the Geol. Soc.* p. 2.