

living philosopher who advocates the opinion that gradual advances may be traced from the state of inanimate matter to that of life: for even Lamarck, who entertains the opinion of a gradation in structure among animals to a very extraordinary extent, considers that the difference between organized and unorganized matter, in other words between living and lifeless matter, is extreme; so that they cannot possibly be ranged in the same line. And he also believes that, however remarkable may be the apparent affinity between plants and animals, they may always be distinguished^y.

But a regular gradation of form cannot even be traced in one and the same kingdom of nature: for, with reference to animals, Cuvier disclaims any attempt to class them so as to form a single series descending gradually from the higher to the lower classes. Such an attempt he thinks absurd; and is far from supposing that, even in a separate class, the last in order are the lowest in the degree of their organization; and still farther is he from supposing that the last of a higher class are more highly advanced than the first of the class immediately succeeding. He merely allows that a regularly graduated scale is occasionally observable to a certain extent; and maintains that the universal

^y Lamarck, *Philosoph. Zoolog.* tom. i. p. 377, 384; and 398, in note 1.