

In addition to the natural groups, enumerated in the distribution above described, Aristotle refers to a few marine animals which principally belong to the zoophytes of Cuvier, without comprehending them under a distinct name. Of that extensive class of animals, called at the present day *polypes*, which are the fabricators and inhabitants of every variety of coral, he says nothing: and of that still more extensive class, if the term *class* be not too confined, the *animalia infusoria*, he was almost necessarily ignorant; most of the species being microscopic.

It appears, from a few scattered notices, that Aristotle had a faint idea that the specific characters and dispositions of animals might be altered, from the effect of food and other circumstances: (τῶν ζῴων τῶν τετραπόδων πολλὴν αἰ χῶραι ποιοῦσι διαφορὰν οὐ μόνον πρὸς τὴν ἄλλην τοῦ σώματος εὐημερίαν ἀλλὰ καὶ πρὸς τὸ πλεονάκις ὀχεύεσθαι καὶ γεννᾶν. p. 122. "Ὅσα μὲν οὖν μαλακὰς ἔχει τὰς τρίχας, εὐβοσίᾳ χρώμενα σκληροτέρας ἴσχει, ὅσα δὲ σκληρὰς, μαλακωτέρας καὶ ἐλάττους. Διαφέρουσι δὲ καὶ κατὰ τοὺς τόπους τοὺς θερμότερους καὶ ψυχροτέρους. p. 68. Ἐνίοτε γίνεται τῶν μονοχρόων ἐκ μελάνων τε καὶ μελαντέρων λευκὰ—ἐκ δὲ τῶν λευκῶν γενῶν οὐκ ὤπται εἰς μέλαν μεταβάλλον. p. 71.) And he mentions particularly one instance of this kind, though his reasoning on the occasion is not admissible in the present state of physiological knowledge. In observing that, "as the "actions of animals are determined by their na-