

fications. Among the *vertebrata*, we have seen the hand become a wing or a fin ; so might we trace the wings of insects. If we begin with a fly, which has two delicate and perfect wings incased and protected, we find that the covers are raised to admit the expansion of the wings. In another, the case becomes a wing ; and the fly is characterised by four wings. Proceeding to examine a third example, we shall discover that this anterior wing is larger and more perfect than the posterior : the fourth specimen has lost the posterior wings, and has only two perfect ones ; and if we continue the examination, the next specimen will present an insect deprived of wings altogether. These are not freaks of nature, but new forms of the body ; new appendages required for a different poising of the fly in its flight. They are adaptations in that regular series which we have observed to obtain in the larger animals, and where the intention can not be mistaken. A very natural question will force itself upon us, how are those varieties to be explained ?

The curious adaptation of a member to different offices and to different conditions of the animal has led to a very extraordinary opinion in the present day,—that all animals consist of the same elements. It would be just to say that they consist of the same chemical elements, and that they attract and assimilate matter by the