

of these facts, to the examination of the different bones of the skeleton, we shall find that every where the form has a strict relation either to the motion to be performed, or the strain to which the bone is most exposed.

In comparing the true bones with the coverings of the insects, we observed the necessity for the porous structure of the former. If it be necessary that the bone shall be very dense, it will, in that case, no longer be possessed of the power of re-union or re-production when it breaks: it will not re-unite upon being fractured, and if exposed, it will die. Here, then, is an obvious imperfection. The bones of animals cannot, in this manner, be made capable of sustaining great weight, without losing a property which is necessary to their existence—that of restoration on their being injured. And even were the material very much condensed, it does not appear that the phosphate of lime, united as it is with the animal matter, is capable of sustaining any great weight. This accordingly limits the size of animals. It may, perhaps, countenance the belief that animals bear a relation in their size and duration of life to the powers and life of man—that the larger animals have existed in a former condition of the world. We allude only to such animals as have extremities: for with respect to the whale, its huge bulk lies out supported in the water. Some of the great fossil