

*On the Position of the Head of Animals and its Relation to the Spine: in Illustration of the Statement made in the body of the Work, that ALL PARTS OF THE SKELETON CORRESPOND WITH EACH OTHER, AND THAT THE VARIATIONS IN THEIR FORM DEPEND SOLELY ON THE FUNCTIONS.*

IN the text, in speaking of the upper or anterior extremity, it has been shown that the changes which we see in the forms of different animals are referable to one principle—the adaptation of the parts to their proper uses. We may, in some measure, consider the head in animals as performing the office of hands: and if we take it in this view, we shall see how far it holds true that the centre of the skeleton remains permanent in its form, compared with the variations in the extreme parts. It has been stated as the opinion of some naturalists, that the varieties in the conformation of the skeleton are to be accounted for by a law which preserves the central parts permanent, whilst the extremities are incident to change. I shall controvert that opinion, and show that the spine and head, whilst they retain their offices of protecting the brain and spinal marrow, and are permanent in regard to