forms of combination, are scattered into dust, or dissipated in air, leaving no trace of their former union? What mechanism has been employed in its construction? What refined chemistry has been exerted in assimilating new particles of matter to those previously organized, and in appropriating them to the nourishment of the parts with which they become identified? By what transcendent power, above all, did this assemblage of material particles first become animated by the breath of life; and from what elevated source did they derive those higher energies, apparently so foreign to their inherent properties, and investing these once lifeless and inert materials with the exalted attributes of activity, of sensation, of perception, of intelligence? Shall we ever comprehend the nature of this subtle and pervading principle, by the agency of which all these wonderful phenomena of life are produced, and which combining into one harmonious system so many heterogeneous and jarring elements, has led to the formation of this exquisite frame, this elaborate machine, this miraculous assemblage of faculties?

The discovery of a clew, if any such can be found, to the mazes of this perplexing labyrinth can be hoped for only from the successful cultivation of the science of physiology. But before engaging in this arduous study, we ought previously to inquire into the methods of reasoning by which it is to be *conducted*.

The object of physiology is, by the diligent examination of the phenomena of life, to ascertain the laws which regulate those phenomena, both as they apply to the individual beings endowed with life, and also as they relate to the various assemblages that constitute the species, the genera, the families, the orders, and the classes of those beings; and, lastly, as they concern the whole collective union of the organized world.

These peculiar laws, which it is the province of physiology to investigate, are, as I have before observed, of two kinds each founded upon relations of a different class. The first, which depend upon the simple relation of cause and ef-