

studies will prepare us for the consideration of living animals as sentient and active beings, endowed by their bounteous Creator with the exalted faculties of perception and of volition, which alone give value to existence, and which raise them so far above the level of the vegetable world. I shall lastly give a very brief account of the reproductive functions and of the phenomena of animal development, in which the discoveries of modern times have revealed to us so considerable a portion of those extensive plans which an all-wise Providence has beneficently devised for the general welfare of animated beings.