

transverse line. Each of these three segments is divisible into an upper, a lower, and two lateral portions, which are joined together at the sides of the trunk; these again admit of farther subdivision; but for the names and descriptions of these smaller pieces I must refer the reader to works on Entomology. The parts of the thorax to which the wings are attached indicate the situation of the centre of gravity of the whole insect; a point which being in the line of the resultant of all the forces concerned in the great movements of the body, requires to be sustained by the moving powers under all circumstances either of action or repose.

Victor Audouin, who has made extensive researches on the comparative forms of all these parts in a great variety of insects, appears to have satisfactorily established the general proposition that, amidst the endless diversity of forms exhibited by the skeleton of insects, they are invariably composed of the same number of elements, disposed in the same relative situations and order of arrangement; and that the only source of difference is a variation in the proportional development of these elements. He has also observed that the great expansion of one part is generally attended by a corresponding diminution of others.

The third division of the body is termed the *Abdomen* (B;) it is composed of all the remaining segments, which join to form a cavity enclosing the viscera subservient to nutrition, respiration, and reproduction. The number of these abdominal segments is very various in different genera of insects. Sometimes there appear to be but three or four; while, in other cases, there are twelve or even a greater number. In the *Calosoma* (Fig. 150, B,) the abdomen has six complete, followed by three imperfect segments. Not being intended to carry any of the organs of progressive motion, they retain the form of simple hoops, which is the primitive type of the segments of annulose animals. Each segment has a ligamentous connexion with the next, which is often so close, as hardly to admit of any motion between them; but in other instances it is more lax, and allows of the abdomen being flexible. In the former case, which is the