

tebrated animals, however strong may be the contrast which they offer in all the essential features of their conformation. The rings which compose the skeleton of the insect, and which enclose its principal nervous chords, have been supposed to have an analogy with the circles of bone which constitute the primary forms of the vertebræ, and which contain the spinal chord; although, in the former case, it is true, other viscera are included within the arches, whereas none are contained in the latter. They agree, also, in having the head placed at one extremity, distinct from the trunk, and containing the principal organs of the senses. Farther correspondences have been likewise traced in the minuter anatomy of these parts, which it would here occupy too much space to examine in detail.

An approximation is apparently made towards an internal skeleton in the cephalopodous mollusca; where we find a central body, cartilaginous in some species, calcareous in others. In the *Loligo*, it has a long and slender shape, and is pointed at the end like the blade of a sword; it bears, as we shall hereafter notice, some resemblance to the cartilaginous spine of the fish called the *Myxine*, or *Gastrobranchus*, which does not enclose the spinal marrow, but only admits it to pass along a groove in its upper edge.

All these multiplied instances, when weighed together, and united in a comprehensive view, are sufficient to prove, that there exist very perceptible links of connexion among all the classes of created beings, even in those apparently the most remote from one another. They render it clear to the discerning eye of the philosophic naturalist, that all the races of animated beings are members of one family, and the offspring of the same provident Parent, who has matured all his plans on a deeply premeditated system, and who dispenses all his gifts with the most salutary regard to the general welfare of his creatures.