

in this branch of science has materially enlarged our knowledge of the structure, the functions, and the physical history of man; subjects with which our welfare has obviously the closest and most intimate relation.

The principle of analogy which prevails so generally in the inferior departments of the animal creation, may be also traced in the class mammalia; for we always find its influence more conspicuous in proportion as the objects comprehended in the natural series of beings are more numerous and more diversified. Scarcely any of the great natural assemblages of animals exhibit more variety in their habits and modes of existence, than the one we are now examining. Each race has its peculiar destination, with regard to the kind of food by which it is nourished, and the means by which that food is obtained. The carnivorous tribes wage war with the larger animals, whom they either spring upon unawares, or openly pursue and overpower, displaying the savage energies of their nature, in practising all the arts of ferocious and sanguinary destruction. Others, intent on meaner prey, resort to divers stratagems for its possession; some are designed to feed chiefly on the mollusca, and others swallow insects only. The numerous tribes which are formed to subsist on vegetable food exhibit, in like manner, a great diversity of construction, adapted to the particular nature of that subsistence, whether it be herbage, or the leaves of trees, or fruits, or seeds, or the coarse fibres of wood and bark. While all are gifted with powers to obtain the nourishment they require, those that have not been armed with weapons of attack, are still provided with instruments of defence, or with means of flight. Each has its respective sphere of operation; and to each its appropriate soil, habitation, climate, and element have been assigned.

It is easy to conceive that all these various circumstances must lead to great diversities in the apparatus for mastication and for digestion, in the organization of the senses, in the construction of the instruments of locomotion and of prehension, and in the general form of the body to which these