

possible to imitate artificially. We have, at the same time, seen that these proximate principles, though they may have a natural tendency to crystallize, are, as they usually exist in living bodies, prevented from crystallization, by having minute quantities of various other elements diffused throughout their mass; the molecules of which diffused elements are in some unknown state of activity; such perhaps as cannot naturally exist in the universe, except when conjoined with organization. Finally, we have inferred, that the differences and peculiarities of these minute additional matters, are probably adequate for explaining the differences and peculiarities, of the sensible and chemical properties of the substances which are formed by organization. Having thus pointed out the general differences of composition existing among organized bodies; it remains to state, that such differences of composition almost invariably indicate differences of structure. For though similarity of composition does not necessarily imply similarity of structure; yet similarity of structure, perhaps, without exception, indicates similarity, or, at least, analogy of composition; and, consequently, *similarity of action*. Thus the woody fibre of plants is always formed of the principle termed *Lignin*, and never of resin, or of albumen. The relation of structure to chemical composition is not less striking in the muscular fibres of animals, and indeed in all