

2. *Classes*, we are told, refer to the "ways and means employed" in the structure of animals, or to the "combinations of their different systems of organs",—somewhat vague grounds, which we may perhaps illustrate by an example, all the more clear because very familiar. Let us suppose the animal kingdom, not the living clay from the hand of the Great Potter, but a collection of earthenware vessels appertaining to table uses; and that we have to effect an orderly arrangement of the mass. First we might observe that among this collection of vessels of all shapes and sizes, there were only a few different patterns,—some all white, some white and gold, some with a landscape, some with a flower; and each having in connection with this its peculiar style of form. We might then adopt, as our first basis of arrangement, pattern or type, both for simplicity and as indicating in the highest respect the mind of the artist. Having formed four great heaps on this ground, we should find that we had in each, vessels differing in material, in shape, in use, in complexity of parts; and we might carry out our farther division on any of these grounds. According to our author, we take the material, whether common earthenware or china, for instance, as our ground, this corresponding to ways and means of construction. Just, however, as we found that type could not be dissociated from rank, so neither can ways and means; and these moreover have a direct relation to use, and until we had read the views of Prof. Agassiz, we had supposed that this, or perhaps more generally, position in the economy of nature, was the predominant idea in the class. Let us place before our minds the classes of Invertebrates as proposed by Agassiz :—

<i>Radiata.</i>	<i>Mollusca.</i>	<i>Articulata.</i>
1. Polypi.	1. Acephala.	1. Worms.
2. Acalephae.	2. Gasteropoda.	2. Crustacea.
3. Echinodermata.	3. Cephalopoda.	3. Insects.

Now, it is quite evident that in these several classes the ground insisted on by our author, the manner of combination of the structures, is highly distinctive, and affords a good ground for discrimination in practical Zoology; but it appears to us that there is a higher reason in the distinction of these groups, which refers to the idea of modification of the type with reference to uses or place in nature. First, then, we would observe that there is a manifest gradation in elevation of rank. The Echinoderm, Cephalopod, and Insect, are respectively at the head of their branches, representing