

red blood—the quadrupeds being viviparous, and the birds oviparous. Amphibia and fishes have the heart with only one ventricle, and cold, red blood—the ^{the}amphibia being furnished with lungs, and the fishes with gills. While, on the other hand, insects and worms have only one ventricle in the heart, and cold white serum instead of blood—the insects being provided with feelers, and the worms with holders.”

Animated nature in general, is thus divided into six classes—quadrupeds, birds, amphibia, fishes, insects, and worms. These, at first view, appear pretty distinct from each other; yet when we come to a minute investigation, Nature is varied by such imperceptible gradations, that no precise line can be drawn between any two classes of her productions, nor any definitions framed that will embrace them all.

“In such a wide field as animated nature comprehends, it is impossible, within the limits I prescribe to myself, to do justice to the whole, or even to particular parts. I shall endeavour, however, at intervals, to give you some idea of the six great classes of which I have just told you it is composed. The authors I have enumerated in this pleasing branch of science, will fill up the outline which I mean to draw, not to satisfy, but to encourage you in deeper researches.

“When it appears you comprehend the distinctions I have laid down, and can give me a proper account of them, I will with pleasure introduce you to a general acquaintance with quadrupeds, and so on, in order. To make your ground sure as you proceed, is the only effectual method of reaping improvement from all studies; more particularly where the objects are so multifarious as in natural history.”