

various parts of nature, the circles of three or five groups, with their sub-divisions and their analogies, in which all truths respecting relationship were supposed to be contained.

Individually,—though deeply interested in such inquiries,—I was never led to adopt the quinary or any kindred system. I was often forcibly struck by the apparent truth and beauty of the combinations produced ; but I also fancied I met with some manifest errors, some forcing of objects into a place, and some far-fetched analogies. I was, besides, much influenced by general arguments on the subject, which, whatever be their true weight, seem to have prevailed with the great majority of naturalists. And yet, after twelve years of constant attention to the formation, arrangement, and care of museums, during which it has been a special object with me to make the specimens instructive, by placing them in natural groups, I find myself compelled by my experience to the recognition of the very kind of collections of families usually five in number, and conveniently represented as forming a circle, for which Mr. Swainson contended, and I find it impossible to resist being impressed by the remarkable analogies of corresponding groups belonging to different circles. Reflecting much on the nature of these relations, I have gradually formed a theory which seems to me to connect all the facts, and to afford all the explanation of them which we can expect. I conceive that every distinct type of animal structure is capable of being worked out with a larger proportional development of the organs of sense and motion ; or, on the other hand, of those of nutrition : and under the former head the development may take the direction of power and ferocity, of greater elevation, and completeness of structure ; or that of grace and activity, with general adaptation, where it is at all consistent with the plan of nature, to an aerial or arboreal life. Under the second head, the higher form of peculiarly nutritive development will be known by a well-balanced figure, with a somewhat full habit of body, comparatively quiet and gentle manners, in lower forms approaching sluggishness, and the use chiefly of food which needs not to be obtained by violence or energetic effort. But under this general head there are two other remarkable modifications : one for anomalous—often in some way elongated—forms ; and one for the lowest structure consistent with the general type, very often connected with aquatic life. These are to be understood as tendencies of development, and we affirm that they include all the distinct tendencies