

progressed this became yet more apparent, until at length the description of one would not apply to the other, and it began to be suspected that the old idea of permanence was incorrect, and would have to be abandoned.

Different conditions had produced different results.

Systematic classification is the progressive work of time.

Our present system of Nature is but of recent origin; that it is not perfect is but to say that it is human in its origin. Still, it is an improvement on the past; it grasps all Nature, and divides it into the celestial and terrestrial. In the terrestrial it finds the organic and inorganic; of the organic it has constituted two kingdoms, the animal and the vegetable, [and here let me remark that I am going to deal exclusively with the animal kingdom]; this it has separated into sub-kingdoms, classes, orders, families, genera and species.

Now these divisions which it is so necessary for man to make, that he may the better understand and study his subject, has no clear dividing lines in Nature. There is an elasticity and a blending of parts in Nature, that, from the limited character of man's intellectual grasp, and the barrenness of his language to express what he may intellectually perceive, no human system has ever yet attained to. We know, as a matter of fact, that this Ball, which we call terrestrial, is as much a part of the celestial as any of those we term such; that the organic is depending on, and inseparably connected with the inorganic. Who can say where the vegetable ends and the animal begins? And just so it is through the whole list; it is at the point of divergence and not that of contact that any of them is clear.

It is upon structure that the divisions in the animal kingdom are principally founded—size, form and color. By a single bone may the class to which the animal belongs be known; by certain resemblances its family relationship is established; upon some points of difference, peculiar to it, its genus is found, and by minuter ones is its specific character determined.

It is now a well known fact that there are opposing influences at work in nature affecting the appearance of every living creature; the one tending to uniformity and the other to diversity. Prof. Huxley says: "The one end to which, in all living beings the formative impulse is tending, seems to be to mould the offspring into the likeness of the parent."

Prof. Louis Agassiz, after premising that all animals, even the