

HIGH SCHOOL ZOOLOGY.

CHAPTER I.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE CATFISH.

1. Botanical students will remember that plants are often subdivided into **phanerogamic** and **cryptogamic** forms ; the latter lack a certain characteristic way of producing seeds which is present in the former, but they really embrace several distinct primary subdivisions of the Vegetable Kingdom, whose only common character is the negative one referred to above. Similarly the Animal Kingdom is often subdivided into **Vertebrate** and **Invertebrate** animals, but the latter really include several distinct sub-kingdoms sharing the negative character of the absence of a backbone. Although, then, the Botanist and Zoologist regard the terms cryptogamic and invertebrate as survivals from a period when less was known as to the structure of the contained forms than there is now, yet the terms are very convenient for every-day use, because they separate the less important, *i. e.*, the lower and less conspicuous members of the Vegetable and Animal Kingdoms from those which are not only higher and more familiar, but also more economically important.

2. The history of Botany and Zoology teaches us that for various reasons these sciences have progressed most rapidly at first with the study of the higher forms of life : similar reasons will render it more convenient for us to begin our study of Zoology with an examination into the structure of a Vertebrate