

their form, give us at once a very correct idea of their nearest relationship? We perceive, before examining any structural character, whether a Beetle is a Carabine, a Longicorn, an Elaterid, a Curculionid, a Chrysomeline; whether a Moth is a Noctuelite, a Geometrid, a Pyralid, etc.; whether a bird is a Dove, a Swallow, a Humming-bird, a Woodpecker, a Snipe, a Heron, etc., etc. But before we can ascertain its genus, we have to study the structure of some characteristic parts; before we can combine families into natural groups, we have to make a thorough investigation of their whole structure, and compare it with that of other families. So form is characteristic of families; and I can add, from a careful investigation of the subject for several years past, during which I have reviewed the whole animal kingdom with reference to this and other topics connected with classification, that form is the essential characteristic of families. I do not mean the mere outline, but form as determined by structure; that is to say, that families cannot be well defined, nor circumscribed within their natural limits, without a thorough investigation of all those features of the internal structure which combine to determine the form."

5. *Genera*, also, are well and ably characterised:

"I have stated before, that in order to ascertain upon what the different groups adopted in our systems are founded, I consulted the works of such writers as are celebrated in the annals of science for having characterised with particular felicity any one kind of these groups, and I have mentioned Latreille as prominent among zoologists for the precision with which he has defined the genera of Crustacea and Insects, upon which he has written the most extensive work extant. An anecdote which I have often heard repeated by entomologists who knew Latreille well, is very characteristic as to the meaning he connected with the idea of genera. At the time he was preparing the work just mentioned, he lost no opportunity of obtaining specimens, the better to ascertain from nature the generic peculiarities of these animals, and he used to apply to the entomologists for contributions to his collection. It was not show specimens he cared to obtain, any would do, for he used to say he wanted them only "to examine their parts." Have we not here a hint, from a master, to teach us what genera are and how they should be characterised? Is it not the special structure of some part or other, which characterises genera? Is it not the finish of the organization of the body,