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ON CHORISIS.

AS AN EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN VEGETABLE STRUCTURES.

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IT has of late years, been the aim of philosophical botanists to establish a few general laws of vegetable structure, capable of explaining all the phenomena which fall under our observation, so as to exhibit a common plan in all the various forms of plants, and show the kind of variations from the general type which occur in each particular instance, or in other words, to trace to the action of intelligible causes the peculiarities observable in each distinct structure, so as to show what is common to many, and how mutual relations are manifested in the midst of apparent diversities. This is, perhaps, to be accounted the highest and most interesting part of the study of nature, and if it must necessarily be preceded by the examination of the details of individual structures, always varied, curious, and attractive, it at least arises out of them as naturally as the philosophy of every science arises out of its facts and observations, combined and meditated upon by the highest intelligences amongst its votaries, aided at times by the happy thoughts of humbler labourers in the same field. I design now