

which, in addition to the mechanical properties of inert matter, superadded qualities, tendencies, and appetences, producing organic parts, and propelling them onwards in a course of development. These dynamical views, which assume something analogous to life as the cause of all the phenomena in nature, have, from their very vague but comprehensive character, been more prevalent among modern physiologists. Unfortunately, we have no detailed exposition of this dynamical system, such as that which Lucretius has presented to us of the Democritic; but in its outlines it was nearly identical with the notions put forward by La Marck and other recent writers. According to Anaximander, the earth assumed its present form in consequence of the evaporation of the primæval water occasioned by the heat of the sun. When the earth acquired a muddy consistence, vesicles were formed by the escape of air, as takes place at present in fermenting marshes. In consequence of evaporation, these vesicles acquired spiny shells or crusts, and became vivified by the sun's rays. These ova, or animals, at last burst their shells, and came upon the dry land. Both the earth and animals went through a process of development, until more perfect animals were produced. Man was the last formed, and according to Anaximander and the author of the