

closest relations to these two, and which likewise runs, on the whole, parallel to them. I mean that series of development of forms which constitutes the object of investigation in *comparative anatomy*, and which I will briefly call the *systematic developmental series of species*. By this we understand the chain of the different, but related and connected forms, which exist *side by side* at any one period of the earth's history ; as, for example, at the present moment. While comparative anatomy compares the different forms of fully developed organisms with one another, it endeavours to discover the common prototypes which underlie, as it were, the manifold forms of kindred species, genera, classes, etc., and which are more or less concealed by their particular differentiation. It endeavours to make out the series of progressive steps which are indicated in the different degrees of perfection of the divergent branches of the tribe. In fact, to keep to the illustration already employed, comparative anatomy shows us how the individual organs and systems of organs in the tribe of vertebrate animals—in the different classes, families, and species of it—have unequally developed, differentiated, and perfected themselves. It shows us how far the succession of classes of vertebrate animals, from the Fishes upwards, through the Amphibia to the Mammals, and here again from the lower to the higher orders of Mammals, forms a progressive series or ladder. What light is thrown upon the subject by the knowledge of this progressive development of the organs, may be gathered from the works of the great comparative anatomists of all ages—in the works of Goethe, Meckel, Cuvier, Johannes Müller, Gegenbaur, and Huxley.

The developmental series of mature forms, which com-