

sively to plants and animals, and here the term was first applied. In order to bring some kind of method into the perplexing study of living forms, two ways presented themselves; and they were consciously or unconsciously followed by morphologists with more or less success. As I mentioned above, one of the chief interests which led to zoological and also to botanical studies was the medical interest. Animals were dissected and observed, as affording by analogy an insight into the structure and processes of the human body. Physiology, the science which deals with the actions of the different parts of the animal or human frame, termed from an early period the functions of the different organs, had made considerable progress during the eighteenth century. It was then found convenient to study the whole organism as an assemblage of different organs or machines, each of which performs a certain function. Thus we have the mechanism on which voluntary motion depends, the mechanism of respiration and of the circulation of the blood through the body, the mechanism of digestion, the mechanism of reproduction, and finally, the mechanism of the nervous system with its specified and localised optical, auditory, and other organs of sense. All these parts or organs could to a great extent be separately studied and described in their mechanical, chemical, and electrical actions. These studies had, since the time of Harvey in England and Haller in Germany, made great progress. The application of chemistry to the processes of respiration and digestion, and finally, the discovery of the galvanic current by Galvani, had given a great impetus to the physiological study of the different

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Study of
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organs.