

some one work ; as man, the bee, the ant, &c.
 (πολιτικὰ δ' ἐστὶν ὧν ἓν τι καὶ κοινὸν γίνεται πάντων τὸ ἔργον·
 ὅπερ οὐ πάντα ποιεῖ τὰ ἀγελαῖα. ἔστι δὲ τοιοῦτον ἄνθρωπος,
 μέλιττα, σφήξ, μύρμηξ. p. 4.)

With the exception of the opinion that inanimate matter graduates into life, nothing advanced by Aristotle in the foregoing observations, if considered in the light of a general statement, is contradicted or set aside by our present knowledge. For no opinion perhaps is more prevalent, among those who are capable of fairly investigating the characters of natural objects and phenomena, than that there are gradations of excellence in the various forms of matter ; although the limits of distinction are often obscure. Who, for instance, that has compared the respective structures and qualities of the bodies, can doubt that the most splendid mineral indicates, humanly speaking, an infinitely less effort of creative and superintending power than the most simple vegetable ? In the mineral we find a perfect similarity, or rather sameness, of character, pervading all the integrant particles of the mass ; the order of their union being the result of a mere external force, which, having once brought them together, ceases to have any further effect. In the vegetable we find a most curiously arranged system of internal tubes or pores, which attract and separate the elementary principles of the soil and of the at-