

**THE MASTER-BUILDER'S PLAN; OR  
THE PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC  
ARCHITECTURE AS INDICATED IN  
THE TYPICAL FORMS OF  
ANIMALS**

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The Master-Builder's Plan; Or the Principles of Organic Architecture as Indicated in the Typical Forms of Animals by George Ogilvie

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**GEORGE OGILVIE**

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THE  
MASTER-BUILDER'S PLAN  
OR THE  
PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE  
AS INDICATED IN  
THE TYPICAL FORMS OF ANIMALS.

BY  
GEORGE OGILVIE, M.D.  
LECTURER ON THE INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE, ETC., IN  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY, ABERDEEN.

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1858

*189. b. 23.*

## PREFACE.

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THE following observations were originally written for the Philosophical Society of Aberdeen, at the request of the secretary, and were in part read at a recent meeting.

The Author's object was to bring forward, in a popular form, the views now generally held by philosophical naturalists in regard to a common plan of construction, traceable in each of the primary divisions of the animal kingdom.

He has been led to the idea of publishing them by his own experience of the want of a popular treatise on the subject. The organisation of the higher animals, it is true, has been



very fully discussed, both in this country and on the Continent, since the first promulgation of the doctrines of Oken. The various works of Professor Owen, in particular, have brought the highly systematised views of that zoologist very extensively under the notice of the cultivators of Natural Science; while his treatise on Osteology, in "Orr's Circle of the Sciences," has, by the low price and extensive circulation of that serial, placed a concise summary of them within the reach of all. It can scarcely be said, however, that even this article takes the place of a popular treatise, for the great aim of the distinguished author, here as elsewhere, being to trace the varied forms under which corresponding bones reappear in the different modifications of the vertebrate skeleton, he is necessarily led into many intricate anatomical details; and the subject of Osteology is but little attractive to the general reader under any treatment.

The organisation of the lower or invertebrated species has naturally attracted less attention on account of their comparative removal from common observation; and, till a very recent period, our acquaintance with their structural relations was far too limited to admit of any general conclusions. Of late, however, the study of most of these lower tribes has been so diligently and successfully prosecuted by various inquirers, that we are now in possession of many admirable dissertations on their several types or plans of construction. But the separate branches of the subject having been taken up independently by different naturalists, their remarks are dispersed through a variety of periodicals and other serials. In general, too, they are addressed to readers who have already a fair knowledge of the departments of zoology to which they refer.

As a part, indeed, of a much larger question, many points in the general construction of the primary groups of animals are brought under review in a recent work, "Typical Forms and Special Ends in Creation," by Drs. M'Cosh and Dickie. Here, in so far as it fell in with the general scope of the work, the latter author has, by a judicious combination of the scattered materials above referred to, presented us with a summary of the principal forms of organisation, expressed in language at once accurate and readily intelligible.

In so far, again, as these forms are illustrative of General Physiology, they have also engaged the attention of Dr. Carpenter in most of his writings. In particular, he has introduced the subject in the course of the opening chapter of his last treatise on "Comparative Physiology;" and in the larger work of the same indefatigable author on the "Principles of Physiology, General and Comparative," we